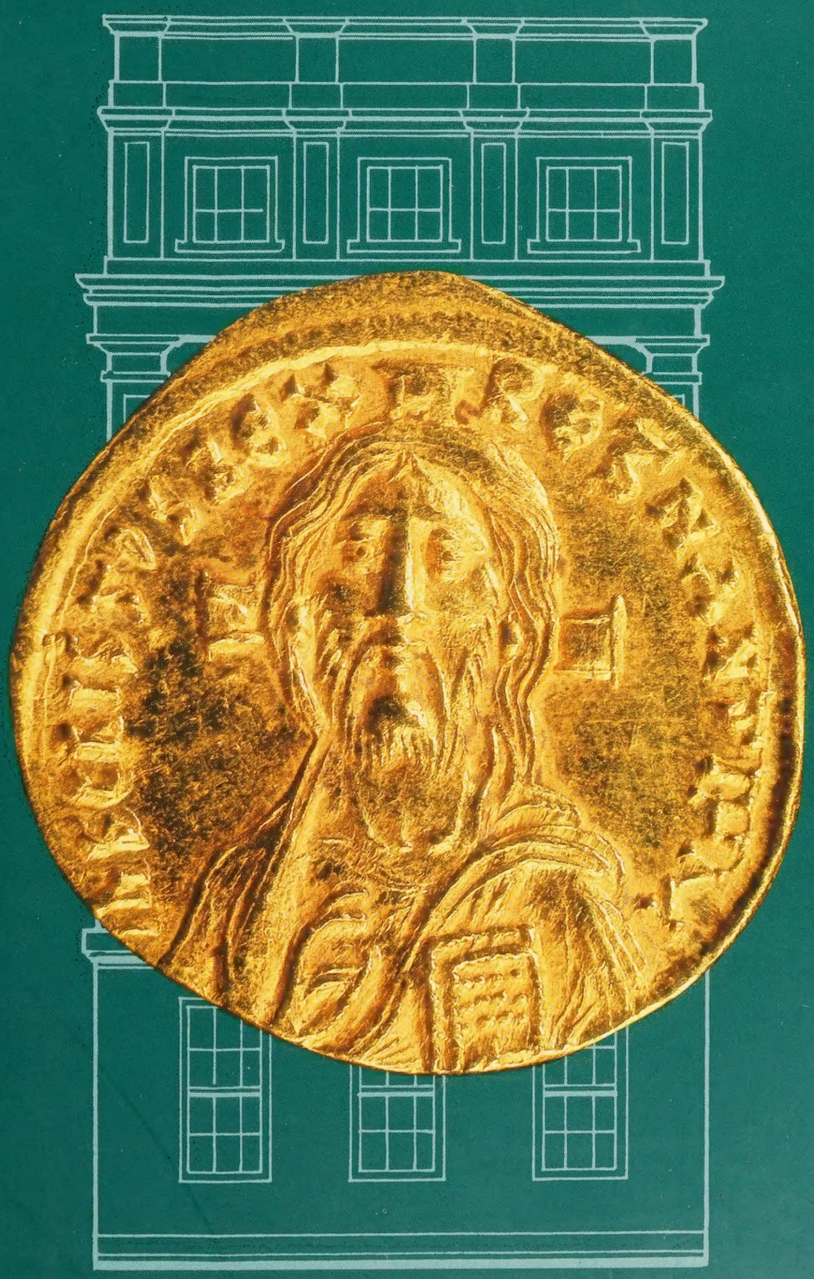
# BALDWIN'S AUCTIONS

Auction Number 2 5 October 1994

## Late Roman and Byzantine Coins

The William J Conte Collection



To be held in the Great Room
The Royal Society of Arts

*Our auction venue*

The Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufacturers and Commerce was founded in 1754, by William Shipley, a drawing master from Northampton, who assembled a group of the most eminent artists, philosophers and scientists of the day and declared that the objectives of his Society were *'to embolden enterprise, to enlarge science, to refine art, to improve our manufactures and to extend our commerce'*. The Society moved to its present premises, which were purpose built by the Adam brothers as part of their Adelphi development, in 1774.

*Our logo*

A. H. Baldwin and Sons Ltd., founded in 1872, has had premises in The Adelphi since the 1920's and since 1970 at 11 Adelphi Terrace. The original Terrace was demolished in 1936. The drawing is derived from part of Robert Adam's original plans for his Royal Terrace, and depicts the house at the West end of the Terrace at the corner of Robert Street.

# BALDWIN'S AUCTIONS

Auction Number 2
5 October 1994

Late Roman and Byzantine Coins
The William J. Conte Collection

The Royal Society of Arts
8 John Adam Street,
London WC2N 6EZ
The Great Room

10.00 am precisely

Baldwin's Auctions Ltd.

11 Adelphi Terrace
London WC2N 6BJ
Telephone: 071 930 6879
Fax: 071 930 9450

| | |
|---|---|
| Date of Sale | Wednesday 5 October 1994<br><br>Morning Session: 10.00 am Lots 1–224 |
| Public View | Tuesday 4 October 1994<br><br>The Royal Society of Arts<br>8 John Adam Street<br>London WC2N 6EZ<br><br>The Tavern Room<br>9.30 am–4.30 pm<br><br>Viewing at other times **by appointment** at 11 Adelphi Terrace during the preceding two weeks<br>9.00 am–5.00 pm, Monday–Friday |
| Buyer's Premium | 10% plus V.A.T. |
| Catalogued by | Thomas Curtis<br>Peter Donald |
| Photography by | Edward Baldwin<br>Frank Purvey |
| Price £15 | |

Auction Number 2
Auction Number 3
5 October 1994
**PRICES REALISED**

# BALDWIN'S AUCTIONS

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|---|---|
| 1 | - |
| 2 | £65 |
| 3 | £65 |
| 4 | £35 |
| 5 | £900 |
| 6 | £900 |
| 7 | £40 |
| 8 | £350 |
| 9 | - |
| 10 | - |
| 11 | £9,600 |
| 12 | - |
| 13 | £310 |
| 14 | £350 |
| 15 | - |
| 16 | - |
| 17 | £260 |
| 18 | - |
| 19 | £2,000 |
| 20 | - |
| 21 | £1,950 |
| 22 | £760 |
| 23 | - |
| 24 | £720 |
| 25 | £650 |
| 26 | £400 |
| 27 | £1,200 |
| 28 | £1,900 |
| 29 | - |
| 30 | £225 |
| 31 | £520 |
| 32 | - |
| 33 | £2,600 |
| 34 | £3,800 |
| 35 | - |
| 36 | £10 |
| 37 | £400 |
| 38 | £360 |
| 39 | £750 |
| 40 | £250 |
| 41 | - |
| 42 | £350 |
| 43 | £2,000 |
| 44 | £25 |
| 45 | - |
| 46 | £520 |
| 47 | £450 |
| 48 | £975 |
| 49 | £560 |
| 50 | £4,400 |
| 51 | £3,250 |
| 52 | £1,000 |
| 53 | £100 |
| 54 | £550 |
| 55 | - |
| 56 | £160 |
| 57 | £45 |
| 58 | £100 |
| 59 | £190 |
| 60 | £110 |
| 61 | £85 |
| 62 | - |
| 63 | £160 |
| 64 | £1,600 |
| 65 | £450 |
| 66 | £25 |
| 67 | - |
| 68 | - |
| 69 | £3,800 |
| 70 | - |
| 71 | - |
| 72 | - |
| 73 | £55 |
| 74 | - |
| 75 | £900 |
| 76 | - |
| 77 | £780 |
| 78 | - |
| 79 | £800 |
| 80 | £2,650 |
| 81 | £4,600 |
| 82 | - |
| 83 | £3,100 |
| 84 | £90 |
| 85 | - |
| 86 | £1,250 |
| 87 | - |
| 88 | - |
| 89 | £115 |
| 90 | £1,800 |
| 91 | - |
| 92 | £4,200 |
| 93 | £30 |
| 94 | £65 |
| 95 | £2,400 |
| 96 | £30 |
| 97 | £95 |
| 98 | £2,000 |
| 99 | - |
| 100 | £6,000 |
| 101 | £820 |
| 102 | £75 |
| 103 | £120 |
| 104 | £1,600 |
| 105 | - |
| 106 | £85 |
| 107 | £460 |
| 108 | £4,000 |
| 109 | £3,400 |
| 110 | £3,200 |
| 111 | - |
| 112 | £100 |
| 113 | £5,300 |
| 114 | £320 |
| 115 | £25 |
| 116 | £30 |
| 117 | £3,000 |
| 118 | £1,000 |
| 119 | £1,350 |
| 120 | £2,500 |
| 121 | - |
| 122 | £500 |
| 123 | £14,000 |
| 124 | £1,100 |
| 125 | £550 |
| 126 | £2,400 |
| 127 | - |
| 128 | - |
| 129 | £1,400 |
| 130 | £510 |
| 131 | £3,600 |
| 132 | £100 |
| 133 | £140 |
| 134 | £440 |
| 135 | £370 |
| 136 | £6,000 |
| 137 | £40 |
| 138 | - |
| 139 | - |
| 140 | £80 |
| 141 | £16,000 |
| 142 | £42,000 |
| 143 | - |
| 144 | £700 |
| 145 | £180 |
| 146 | £180 |
| 147 | £1,300 |
| 148 | £550 |
| 149 | £650 |
| 150 | - |
| 151 | £590 |
| 152 | £80 |
| 153 | £1,075 |
| 154 | £1,500 |
| 155 | £3,300 |
| 156 | £11,500 |
| 157 | £400 |
| 158 | - |
| 159 | - |
| 160 | £2,250 |
| 161 | £155 |
| 162 | £155 |
| 163 | - |
| 164 | - |
| 165 | £350 |
| 166 | £300 |
| 167 | £1,200 |
| 168 | £100 |
| 169 | £500 |
| 170 | £600 |
| 171 | £85 |
| 172 | £110 |
| 173 | £620 |
| 174 | £125 |
| 175 | - |
| 176 | £2,700 |
| 177 | - |
| 178 | £850 |
| 179 | £800 |
| 180 | £145 |
| 181 | - |
| 182 | £700 |
| 183 | £520 |
| 184 | £1,700 |
| 185 | £950 |
| 186 | £230 |
| 187 | - |
| 188 | £1,000 |
| 189 | £150 |
| 190 | - |
| 191 | £310 |
| 192 | £480 |
| 193 | £45 |
| 194 | - |
| 195 | £180 |
| 196 | £150 |
| 197 | £200 |
| 198 | £180 |
| 199 | £4,800 |
| 200 | £200 |
| 201 | - |
| 202 | £180 |
| 203 | £260 |
| 204 | £960 |
| 205 | £40 |
| 206 | £1,800 |
| 207 | - |
| 208 | £180 |
| 209 | - |
| 210 | £110 |
| 211 | £120 |
| 212 | £150 |
| 213 | £160 |
| 214 | £100 |
| 215 | £100 |
| 216 | £125 |
| 217 | £270 |
| 218 | £900 |
| 219 | £270 |
| 220 | £150 |
| 221 | £85 |
| 222 | £1,600 |
| 223 | £9,800 |
| 224 | £1,200 |
| 301 | £45 |
| 302 | £70 |
| 303 | £55 |
| 304 | £75 |
| 305 | £115 |
| 306 | £140 |
| 307 | £220 |
| 308 | £240 |
| 309 | £55 |
| 310 | £90 |
| 311 | £20 |
| 312 | £740 |
| 313 | £1,100 |
| 314 | £900 |
| 315 | £110 |
| 316 | £140 |
| 317 | £130 |
| 318 | £85 |
| 319 | £55 |
| 320 | £480 |
| 321 | £130 |
| 322 | £75 |
| 323 | £150 |
| 324 | £130 |
| 325 | £35 |
| 326 | £35 |
| 327 | £700 |
| 328 | £150 |
| 329 | £75 |
| 330 | £75 |
| 331 | £75 |
| 332 | £150 |
| 333 | £390 |
| 334 | £60 |
| 335 | £320 |
| 336 | £130 |
| 337 | £70 |
| 338 | £130 |
| 339 | £40 |
| 340 | £65 |
| 341 | £340 |
| 342 | £1,750 |
| 343 | £560 |
| 344 | £520 |
| 345 | £555 |
| 346 | £270 |
| 347 | £180 |
| 348 | £320 |
| 349 | £130 |
| 350 | £380 |
| 351 | £440 |
| 352 | £155 |
| 353 | £135 |
| 354 | £25 |
| 355 | £160 |
| 356 | £140 |
| 357 | £95 |
| 358 | £900 |
| 359 | £240 |
| 360 | £160 |
| 361 | £460 |
| 362 | £470 |
| 363 | £310 |
| 364 | £280 |
| 365 | £100 |
| 366 | £150 |
| 367 | £65 |
| 368 | £60 |
| 369 | £70 |
| 370 | £1,000 |
| 371 | £1,650 |
| 372 | £165 |
| 373 | £80 |
| 374 | £60 |
| 375 | £120 |
| 376 | £50 |
| 377 | £110 |
| 378 | £220 |
| 379 | £520 |
| 380 | £110 |
| 381 | £230 |
| 382 | £500 |
| 383 | £330 |
| 384 | £30 |
| 385 | £20 |
| 386 | £75 |
| 387 | £20 |
| 388 | £48 |
| 389 | £540 |
| 390 | £320 |
| 391 | £200 |
| 392 | £230 |
| 393 | £600 |
| 394 | £620 |
| 395 | £620 |
| 396 | £180 |
| 397 | £890 |
| 398 | £760 |
| 399 | £95 |
| 400 | £520 |
| 401 | £860 |
| 402 | £1,750 |
| 403 | £1,040 |
| 404 | £320 |
| 405 | £380 |
| 406 | £260 |

94000176

| | |
|---|---|
| 407 | £1,650 |
| 408 | £440 |
| 409 | £300 |
| 410 | £460 |
| 411 | £140 |
| 412 | £560 |
| 413 | £210 |
| 414 | £185 |
| 415 | £155 |
| 416 | £110 |
| 417 | £270 |
| 418 | £110 |
| 419 | £230 |
| 420 | £70 |
| 421 | £60 |
| 422 | £230 |
| 423 | £70 |
| 424 | £150 |
| 425 | £30 |
| 426 | £45 |
| 427 | £55 |
| 428 | £600 |
| 429 | £3,350 |
| 430 | £740 |
| 431 | £600 |
| 432 | £720 |
| 433 | £55 |
| 434 | £55 |
| 435 | £140 |
| 436 | £65 |
| 437 | £55 |
| 438 | £40 |
| 439 | £140 |
| 440 | £230 |
| 441 | £80 |
| 442 | £75 |
| 443 | £320 |
| 444 | £75 |
| 445 | £150 |
| 446 | £30 |
| 447 | £250 |
| 448 | £65 |
| 449 | £60 |
| 450 | £540 |
| 451 | £250 |
| 452 | £330 |
| 453 | £360 |
| 454 | £860 |
| 455 | £500 |
| 456 | £480 |
| 457 | £540 |
| 458 | £470 |
| 459 | - |
| 460 | - |
| 461 | - |
| 462 | - |
| 463 | - |
| 464 | - |
| 465 | - |
| 466 | - |
| 467 | - |
| 468 | £300 |
| 469 | £260 |

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|---|---|
| 470 | - |
| 471 | £100 |
| 472 | £260 |
| 473 | £105 |
| 474 | £130 |
| 475 | - |
| 476 | £80 |
| 477 | £155 |
| 478 | £85 |
| 479 | £60 |
| 480 | £420 |
| 481 | £530 |
| 482 | £480 |
| 483 | £10,500 |
| 484 | £200 |
| 485 | £260 |
| 486 | £340 |
| 487 | £320 |
| 488 | £320 |
| 489 | £180 |
| 490 | £520 |
| 491 | - |
| 492 | £520 |
| 493 | - |
| 494 | £200 |
| 495 | - |
| 496 | - |
| 497 | £370 |
| 498 | £130 |
| 499 | £130 |
| 500 | £105 |
| 501 | £160 |
| 502 | £220 |
| 503 | £80 |
| 504 | £280 |
| 505 | £75 |
| 506 | £150 |
| 507 | £225 |
| 508 | £530 |
| 509 | £1,250 |
| 510 | £610 |
| 511 | £80 |
| 512 | - |
| 513 | £300 |
| 514 | - |
| 515 | - |
| 516 | £150 |
| 517 | £180 |
| 518 | £200 |
| 519 | £200 |
| 520 | - |
| 521 | - |
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| 525 | £100 |
| 526 | £90 |
| 527 | £80 |
| 528 | £70 |
| 529 | £55 |
| 530 | - |
| 531 | £20 |
| 532 | £350 |

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|---|---|
| 533 | £360 |
| 534 | £380 |
| 535 | £500 |
| 536 | £440 |
| 537 | - |
| 538 | £360 |
| 539 | £600 |
| 540 | £220 |
| 541 | £350 |
| 542 | £150 |
| 543 | £150 |
| 544 | £100 |
| 545 | £130 |
| 546 | £80 |
| 547 | £200 |
| 548 | £140 |
| 549 | £290 |
| 550 | £140 |
| 551 | £140 |
| 552 | £140 |
| 553 | £140 |
| 554 | £90 |
| 555 | £95 |
| 556 | £120 |
| 557 | £140 |
| 558 | £80 |
| 559 | £85 |
| 560 | £160 |
| 561 | £80 |
| 562 | - |
| 563 | £150 |
| 564 | £290 |
| 565 | £200 |
| 566 | £150 |
| 567 | £130 |
| 568 | £130 |
| 569 | £140 |
| 570 | £240 |
| 571 | £220 |
| 572 | £820 |
| 573 | £210 |
| 574 | £180 |
| 575 | £140 |
| 576 | £120 |
| 577 | £170 |
| 578 | £320 |
| 579 | £110 |
| 580 | £680 |
| 581 | £320 |
| 582 | £100 |
| 583 | £100 |
| 584 | £100 |
| 585 | £950 |
| 586 | £100 |
| 587 | £100 |
| 588 | £280 |
| 589 | £260 |
| 590 | £280 |
| 591 | £220 |
| 592 | £220 |
| 593 | £200 |
| 594 | £220 |
| 595 | £220 |

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|---|---|
| 596 | £340 |
| 597 | £750 |
| 598 | £230 |
| 599 | £460 |
| 600 | £200 |
| 601 | £750 |
| 602 | £340 |
| 603 | £650 |
| 604 | £320 |
| 605 | £550 |
| 606 | £350 |
| 607 | £170 |
| 608 | £640 |
| 609 | £550 |
| 610 | £370 |
| 611 | £450 |
| 612 | £270 |
| 613 | £160 |
| 614 | £310 |
| 615 | £660 |
| 616 | £1,100 |
| 617 | £1,050 |
| 618 | £520 |
| 619 | £330 |
| 620 | £110 |
| 621 | £390 |
| 622 | £2,300 |
| 623 | £680 |
| 624 | £520 |
| 625 | £440 |
| 626 | £580 |
| 627 | £410 |
| 628 | £260 |
| 629 | £210 |
| 630 | £110 |
| 631 | £210 |
| 632 | £150 |
| 633 | £160 |
| 634 | £860 |
| 635 | £430 |
| 636 | £140 |
| 637 | £90 |
| 638 | £60 |
| 639 | £290 |
| 640 | - |
| 641 | £310 |
| 642 | £350 |
| 643 | £110 |
| 644 | £120 |
| 645 | £180 |
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| 649 | £225 |
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| 651 | £180 |
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| 654 | £180 |
| 655 | £110 |
| 656 | £45 |
| 657 | £60 |
| 658 | £1,250 |

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| 659 | £210 |
| 660 | £55 |
| 661 | £360 |
| 662 | £45 |
| 663 | £1,000 |
| 664 | £80 |
| 665 | £860 |
| 666 | £65 |
| 667 | £960 |
| 668 | £70 |
| 669 | £200 |
| 670 | - |
| 671 | £330 |
| 672 | £190 |
| 673 | £180 |
| 674 | £310 |
| 675 | £250 |
| 676 | £150 |
| 677 | £220 |
| 678 | £600 |
| 679 | £210 |
| 680 | £140 |
| 681 | £340 |
| 682 | £120 |
| 683 | £130 |
| 684 | £130 |
| 685 | £105 |
| 686 | £150 |
| 687 | £140 |
| 688 | £130 |
| 689 | £120 |
| 690 | £160 |
| 691 | £320 |
| 692 | £280 |
| 693 | £285 |
| 694 | £260 |
| 695 | £265 |
| 696 | £220 |
| 697 | £250 |
| 698 | £220 |
| 699 | £360 |
| 700 | £160 |
| 701 | £450 |
| 702 | £520 |
| 703 | £410 |
| 704 | £270 |
| 705 | £360 |
| 706 | £210 |
| 707 | £210 |
| 708 | £210 |
| 709 | £385 |
| 710 | £310 |
| 711 | £250 |
| 712 | £250 |
| 713 | £260 |
| 714 | £310 |
| 715 | £260 |
| 716 | £360 |
| 717 | £360 |
| 718 | £200 |
| 719 | £200 |
| 720 | £260 |
| 721 | £330 |

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|---|---|
| 722 | £210 |
| 723 | £310 |
| 724 | £310 |
| 725 | £290 |
| 726 | £310 |
| 727 | £310 |
| 728 | £140 |
| 729 | £75 |
| 730 | £140 |
| 731 | £70 |
| 732 | £140 |
| 733 | £40 |
| 734 | £70 |
| 735 | £260 |
| 736 | £95 |
| 737 | £140 |
| 738 | £100 |
| 739 | £280 |
| 740 | £110 |
| 741 | - |
| 742 | £250 |
| 743 | £65 |
| 744 | £35 |
| 745 | £1,800 |
| 746 | £130 |
| 747 | £85 |
| 748 | £65 |
| 749 | £310 |
| 750 | £70 |
| 751 | £90 |
| 752 | £65 |
| 753 | £192 |
| 754 | £25 |
| 755 | £330 |
| 756 | £120 |
| 757 | £370 |
| 758 | - |
| 759 | - |
| 760 | £80 |
| 761 | £200 |
| 762 | £40 |
| 763 | - |
| 764 | £230 |
| 765 | £210 |
| 766 | £150 |
| 767 | £160 |
| 768 | £250 |
| 769 | £280 |
| 770 | £17,000 |
| 771 | £1,100 |
| 772 | £2,600 |
| 773 | £620 |
| 774 | £1,300 |
| 775 | £480 |
| 776 | £320 |
| 777 | £900 |
| 778 | £210 |
| 779 | - |
| 780 | £330 |
| 781 | £190 |
| 782 | £190 |
| 783 | £100 |
| 784 | £190 |

## FOREWORD

The well known collector and numismatist, Dr. William J Conte, has for many years added those rare, historically important, and artistically attractive coins to his cabinets which museum curators and collectors alike talk about and hope, one day, to own. Not only in the late Roman and Byzantine field, -as in this collection marking the rise and fall of the empire based on Constantinople - but in the mediaeval English series, he has with an unfailing eye selected from sometimes enormous offerings (as was the case with the sale of the Hunt collection) only those coins which are significantly above average in their beauty, both of style and condition, and rarity. We may have been fortunate to have seen many of the coins on view before, but that does not alter this fact: they are still in many cases the rarest, or finest known examples of their kind. Now, with the offer for sale of this cabinet of coins in just 224 lots, his careful selection once more becomes available, providing the opportunity to acquire rare coins which many thought would not be seen again for many years to come.

Dr. J.P.C. Kent, whose publication in October this year of volume X of R.I.C. completes that indispensable series of catalogues, has written an introduction to the sale which underlines the importance of many of the coins. It remains to say that new attributions and re-attributions in the Byzantine series of coins are made as one publication follows another. The catalogue of David R Sear "Byzantine Coins and their Values" (1987 edition) is most useful in that it gives other references under its consecutive numbering system, whilst the "Catalogue of the Byzantine Coins in the Dumbarton Oaks and Whittemore Collections" still provides an invaluable English-language listing of many of the varieties of type, legend and minutiae of the coinage on which attributions are frequently based: nonetheless, where later publications have altered our understanding of the coins, we have taken the presently accepted view into account in our descriptions. Legends are given with a view to preserving the sense of the statements they make; a reasonable attempt has been made to copy the peculiar letter forms without recourse to a special font.

Thomas Curtis
Peter Donald

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## THE WILLIAM J CONTE COLLECTION

The dispersal of a fine collection offers the numismatic world opportunities of many kinds. Even if not everyone is personally able to acquire some of the splendid pieces it contains, all can appreciate the achievement that its assembly represents, and enjoy the sight of so many well preserved, rare and interesting coins. Connoisseurs will surely be looking to fill some of the gaps in their cabinets.

Broadly, its theme is Constantinople from the time of its dedication under its new name in 330 down to the fall of the city to the Turks in 1453. The beautiful solidus of the founder himself, Constantine the Great, with which the sale opens, epitomizes what being an emperor was about. An emperor, in the language of the times, demanded `praise and fear'. These were earned, above all, by his being (in theory, at least) always and inevitably victorious; but, in Virgil's telling phrase, a Roman should spare his subjects as well as defeat proud foes. Here, Constantine extends the `pious hand' of favour to the suppliant kneeling before him. This powerful image, insinuating the essential beneficence of a much-feared ruler, was still thought worth reviving more than a century later for an emperor who was a mere figurehead.

Coinage, even in periods when typology was relatively immobilized, tends to illustrate themes reflecting the public's intended perception of its ruler. We have already spoken of his victoriousness and beneficence. No less important were his magnificence and his generosity, for these denoted wealth, and wealth has always given power. Particularly significant for his often fragile relationship with the populations of the great cities where he resided was the periodic assumption of the consulship, with its accompanying festivities and largesse. This exercise in public relations was often commemorated on the coinage, and is well represented in this collection (lots 9,15,16,18,19,41,48). Several of the pieces are in themselves unusually informative and interesting. The solidus struck for Theodosius II's eighteenth consulship (lot 15) carries also mention of his forty-fourth imperatorial year. This dates it precisely to the first nine days of 444, for Theodosius's forty-fifth year (as he reckoned it) began on 10th January of that very year. This piece was struck from a freshly engraved obverse die, but other examples are known which re-used a die at least five years old. Lot 18, of Leo I, for the consulship of 458, did even better, using a die seven years old; it shows the emperor's name recut over that of his predecessor Marcian, whose consulship fell in 451. Interestingly, style shows that Leo did not re-use Marcian's reverse die also, as might have been expected, but had a fresh one prepared for himself.

A consular coin which illustrates the fact that many problems remain unresolved is that struck at Carthage for Phocas (lot 48). It is dated to the sixth indiction, and must therefore fall between November 602 and August 603, a period which can further be reduced by remembering that in winter it could take months rather than weeks for news of events at Constantinople to reach distant Carthage. 603 was indeed reckoned by chroniclers to be the year of Phocas's consulship, but consular largesse is only attested during December, well into the seventh indiction. Since there appear to be two consular issues for him both at Carthage and Constantinople, it appears that, exceptionally, the coins record two separate donatives. That a distribution of coins at the end of a consular year was normal may be inferred from the events of 535, when Belisarius is recorded to have concluded his consulship in Syracuse with a spectacular donative. Under ordinary circumstances, the closing ceremonies of the consulship attracted no comment, but it may well be that those of Phocas in December 603 were unusually lavish.

Other early coins of special interest come from the reign of Justinian I. Lot 32 is one of the seldom-seen tremisses struck in Rome after its capture from the Ostrogoths, and explicitly bearing the city's name. Lots 33 and 34 are splendid examples of the very rare ceremonial silver coinage struck at Constantinople during Justinian's reign. The first shows the large pellets and curious `crested hair' of his later years, and is struck to a standard some 30% below that of the start of his reign. Lot 34 is an early, full weight Light Miliarensis, one of the latest coins in a series that went back to the late fourth century.

The eighth century series includes some notable rarities. One of the most attractive is the solidus of the short-lived Theodosius III (lot 81), whose chief claim to fame is said to have been the miracles worked at his tomb at Ephesus, where, coincidentally, his son was bishop. It is surprising that his coins are so much scarcer than those of his equally ephemeral predecessors Philippicus (lot 80) and Artemius Anastasius. Other great rarities are lots 85 and 86, the solidus and miliaresion of the usurper Artavasdus and his son Nicephorus, who tried to take advantage of Arab attacks and religious dissension to supplant Constantine V. These coins date from their brief occupation of Constantinople.

The rest of the Iconoclast period is well represented here. The sale includes two solidi (lots 90,91) with the effigy of the notorious empress Irene, infamous for having blinded her son in order to secure power, and examples of the very rare sole reign solidi of Nicephorus I (lot 92) and Michael II (lot 100).

The Macedonian dynasty is also well represented. First in artistic importance are the impressive portrait solidi of Leo VI (lot 113) and his son Constantine VII (lot 123), while historically the series charting the career and quasi-usurpation of Romanus I and his family (lots 118-122) is noteworthy. To the period when the dynasty was represented only by Constantine VIII's daughters Zoe and Theodora belong a number of outstanding specimens. First in date is the beautiful anonymous silver piece (lot 136), with its hexameter inscription invoking the `All-glorious Virgin'. Next comes the remarkable pattern for a gold coinage of Zoe herself (lot 141), interesting for its specific identification of the icon of Christ which inspired its design. Whether lot 142 is to be ascribed to Michael IV or, as here, to his odious nephew and namesake, the novelty of the introduction to the coinage of an Archangel gives it a special interest; furthermore, despite its rarity, it is believed to have been the prototype for a Scandinavian penny. From slightly later we may note a fine example of what western contemporaries called a *solidus stellatus* (lot 147), and a good series of the rare and historically interesting silver coinage (lots 150,151,155,160,164-166,170,173-176,181,182,187).

The declining years of the empire are illustrated by a representative series in all metals, including most of the emperors who reigned in Constantinople. The pattern piece of Manuel I (lot 199) and the two bronzes of Isaac Comnenus of Cyprus (lots 209,210) are unusual, while the collection ends strongly with silver of the last Palaeologi. Pride of place must surely go to the three denominations of Constantine XI (lots 222-224). These are examples of a series which every Byzantine collector dreams of possessing, and furnish a great finish to a fine sale.

John Kent

# LATE ROMAN AND BYZANTINE COINS : THE WILLIAM J. CONTE COLLECTION

## CONSTANTINE I, The Great, 307-337

Flavius Valerius Constantinus, born c.272-3, Caesar 25 July 306, Augustus 31 March 307, died aged about 65, Nicomedia 22 May 337

1 **Solidus**, 4.39g, Nicomedia, May 330, officina P

CONSTANTI-NVS MAX AVG, bust of Constantine I right, draped, cuirassed, wearing rosette diadem
*rev* PIETAS AUGVSTI NOSTRI, Constantine standing facing in military dress, head left, holding sceptre in left hand and extending right hand to raise kneeling turreted female who is accompanied by a standing military figure with raised shield; Victory stands behind the emperor, holding a palm branch in her left hand and crowning the emperor with a wreath; in ex. SMNP (RIC VII p.628, 168, citing specimen in Vienna; cf.Cohen VII p.274,393, citing specimens in London and Paris, with mintmarks SMNC and SMN respectively). *Extremely fine*
£4500-5000

From Numismatic Fine Arts auction XXII, 1st June 1989 lot 130

Constantine founded a new capital city of the eastern Roman Empire on the site of the old Greek city, Byzantium, in 324, after the naval victory over Licinius at Chrysopolis (Scutari). The festival for the formal dedication of the city on 18 May 330 was the occasion for the distribution of coins as a great donative to the army, and for a subsequent celebration of the two centres, Roma and Constantinopolis, on coins and medallions. It has been suggested (RIC VII p.592) that the act of piety of the Emperor (*Pietas Augusti Nostri*) is the restoration of the old city, raised here anew by Constantine

*See colour enlargement*

2 **Billon (Siliqua or Centenionalis),** 3.64g, Trier, 311, officina P

IMP CONSTANTI-NVS AVG, bust of Constantine left wearing high crested helmet, cuirassed, spear across right shoulder
*rev* VICTORIAE LAETAE PRINC PERP, two Victories standing facing each other holding between them a shield inscribed VOT PR, and an altar; in ex. PTR (RIC VII, p.181,208a). *Extremely fine, rare*
£80-100

An issue marking Constantine's attempt to create a new silver coinage. For companion pieces of Maximinus and Licinius, see RIC VI, p.224, 825-6

## **FAUSTA AUGUSTA,** 324-326

Flavia Maxima Fausta, Augusta 324-326, wife of Constantine I, put to death on his orders in 326

3 **Ae** 19mm. 3.44g, Trier, 326, officina P

FLAV MAX - FAVSTA AVG, bare head of Fausta right, hair waved and held off neck in bun, wearing mantle
*rev* SPES REI P-VBLICAE, Fausta veiled, standing facing, looking left, holding two children in her arms; in ex. PTR and pellet in crescent (RIC VII, p.207, 466). *Extremely fine, rare* £60-80

Fausta actually bore Constantine three sons, Constantine II, Constantius II and Constans....the future "hope of the state"

## **CRISPUS** Caesar, 317-326

Flavius Julius Crispus, Caesar 1 March 317-Summer 326, the eldest son of Constantine I by his first wife, Minervina, put to death by his father in 326 aged about 21

4 **Ae** 19mm., 3.53g, London, 323-324

CRISPVS - NOBIL C, bust of Crispus left, laureate, cuirassed, holding shield on left arm, and forward pointing spear
*rev* BEAT TRA - NQLITAS, globe on altar inscribed VOT/IS/ XX in three lines; above, three stars; in ex. PLON (RIC VII, p.114, 279). *Well centred, extremely fine* £40-60

## **CONSTANTIUS II,** Augustus 337-361

Flavius Julius Constantius, second son of Constantine I by Fausta, Caesar 8 Nov 324, Augustus 9 September 337, died of fever in Cilicia, 3 November 361

5 **Solidus**, 4.42g, Heraclea, 337-340

D N CONSTA-NTIVS AUG, bust of Constantius right, diademed, draped and cuirassed
*rev* VICTORIA CONSTANTI AVG, Victory seated right, on a cuirass, pointing to inscription VOT XV in two lines on shield supported by winged Genius; shield behind cuirass; in ex. .SMHR (RIC VIII p.430, 8 (r4); C 254). *A rare Heraclean solidus, small marks behind head, practically mint state* £1000-1200

Gold attributed to Heraclea (Perinthus) is rare; after 325 the mint of Constantinople provided most of the gold in the provinces of Constantine's Empire. The reverse type is a reference to the vows regularly made to the gods in expectation of a favourable response from them. The imperial Vota are a guide to the dating of an issue, and require careful interpretation: in the context of this coin, see RIC VIII p.50ff

*See colour illustration*

6 **Solidus**, 4.43g, Sirmium, 355-361

FL IVL CONSTAN-TIVS PERP AVG, bust of Constantius facing slightly right, cuirassed, high crested helmet, diademed, holding spear over shoulder with right hand, and shield decorated with horseman and fallen enemy motif
*rev* GLORIA REI - PVBLICAE, Roma at left, facing, and Constantinople, foot on prow, at right, turned towards Roma, holding between them a shield inscribed VOT XXXV MULT XXXX; in ex. SIRM and star in crescent (RIC VIII p.388,59; C 124). *High relief bust of fine style, minor marks, extremely fine* £800-900

From Bank Leu A.G. auction 45, 26 May 1988, lot 382

Rome and Constantinople are linked together as "the glory of the State" in this issue marking the thirty-fifth anniversary of Constantius' rule, celebrated in 357. The obverse type first appeared with Constantine I, and became a prototype for a long series of Byzantine solidi

## CONSTANTIUS GALLUS Caesar, 351-354

Flavius Claudius Constantius, originally named Gallus, cousin of Constantius II, Caesar 15 March 351, put to death by Constantius II, Winter 354

7 **Ae** 21 mm., 4.90g, Alexandria, 351-354, officina A

DN CONSTANTI-VS NOB CAES, bust of Gallus right, head bare, draped and cuirassed
*rev* FEL TEMP RE-PARATIO, warrior in full armour and holding shield, thrusts spear downwards at horse of fallen barbarian who himself falls away, shield on ground; in field, .S., in ex. ALE A (RIC VIII p.544,79; LRBC 2843). *Extremely fine* £40-60

When first introduced, the reverse "Rebirth of the Golden Age" legend may have been an allusion to the eleven-hundredth anniversary of Rome in 348, and the soldier spearing fallen horseman marked battles against the Sasanian King of Persia, Shapur II. On this and the many other occasions it was used, Eastern and Western barbarian opponents may be distinguished by dress and hairstyle

## JULIAN II, The Apostate, Augustus 360-363

Flavius Claudius Julianus, cousin of Constantius II, Caesar 6 November 355, Augustus late in 360, killed in battle against Persians, 26 June 363

8 **Ae** "Follis", 29mm., 8.49g, Cyzicus, 361-363, officina A

DN FL CL IVLI-ANVS PF AVG, bust of bearded Julian right, diademed, draped and cuirassed
*rev* SECVRITAS REI PVB, bull standing right, two stars above his raised head; in ex. CVZ A (RIC VIII p.500,127; LRBC 2511; Elmer, NZ 1937, 120-122). *Deep green patina, full round flan, a particularly well preserved example, extremely fine* £300-350

The "Security of the State" is represented by a strong bull, a pagan image, but whether it was intended as a philosophical symbol of the emperor himself, a sacred Apis bull, or an astrological sign has not been established beyond doubt

## **VALENTINIAN I,** Augustus 364-375

Valentinianus, proclaimed at Nicaea, Augustus 26 February 364-17 November 375, died of an apoplectic fit

9 **Solidus,** 4.45g, Constantinople, 368
DN VALENTINI - ANVS PF AVG, bust of Valentinian left, diademed, wearing consular robes and holding mappa in right hand, sceptre in left
*rev* VOTA PV-BLICA, Valentinian I and Valens enthroned facing, each nimbate, wearing consular robes and holding mappa in raised right hand and sceptre in left, their feet on footstools and at their feet, left and right, captives kneeling with arms tied behind their backs; in ex. CONS between star and wreath (RIC IX,p.217,29a; C VIII, p.97, 67/68). *Extremely fine*
£2800-3000

From Numismatic Fine Arts auction XXII, 1st June 1989 lot 150

A special issue for the second joint consulship of Valentinian I and his brother Valens, in 368. The "VOTA PUBLICA", solemn vows for the welfare of the state, were made by the consuls when they assumed the magistracy at the beginning of the year. On 3rd January, troops renewed their oath of allegiance to the emperor, and received a donative or bonus in return. Similar issues were made in Trier, Valentinian's residence, and Constantinople, that of Valens

*See colour illustration*

## **VALENS,** Augustus 364-378

Valens, brother of Valentinian I, born 328, Augustus 28 March 364-9 August 378, killed in battle against the Goths at Hadrianopolis

10 **Solidus**, 4.43g, Antioch, 364-365

DN VALENS - PER F AVG, bust of Valens, diademed, draped and cuirassed right
*rev* RESTITVTOR-REI PVBLICAE, Valens diademed, in armour and military cloak, standing facing, holding standard decorated with cross in right hand, and turning head towards a Victory on a globe which he holds in his left hand, which holds out a wreath to crown him; in field left, a large cross, in ex. ANT A between two stars (RIC IX,p.272,2d, and p.271, var.xxxvii; C VIII, p.1078,36). *Practically mint state* £800-900

From Numismatic Fine Arts auction XXII, 1st June 1989 lot 151

Whereas early Solidi of Valentinian and Valens declare that they are restorers of the State, the State was in fact beset on all sides, and Valens was killed fighting against the Goths in the disastrous battle of Adrianople in 378. The imagery here includes the cross on the labarum, and the use of a large cross as a control mark, noticeable Christian symbolism

## EUGENIUS, Augustus 392-394

Eugenius, Augustus 22 August 392-6 September 394, a puppet emperor in the western Empire, put to death by Theodosius

11 **Solidus**, 4.46g, Lugdunum

DN EVGENI-VS PF AVG, bust of bearded Eugenius right, diademed, draped and cuirassed
*rev* VICTOR-IA AVGG, two nimbate emperors, Theodosius I and Eugenius, enthroned facing, holding a globe between them, Victory hovering above with protective wings over them, and palm branch on groundline; L-D at left and right; in ex. COM (RIC IX, p.52,45). *A few minor marks, mint state* £7000-8000

Eugenius, a palace official and the imperial candidate of the Commander in Chief of the Western armies, Arbogast, does no more then copy an established reverse type, two harmonious emperors of East and West. Theodosius in the East recognised him as no more than a puppet, and moved quickly to put him to death. The obverse head on this coin, with dignified aquiline features, long nose and tidy beard seems to be a serious attempt at a likeness

*See colour enlargement*

## ARCADIUS, Augustus 383-408

Arcadius, elder son of Theodosius I and Aelia Flaccilla, born AD 377, Augustus 19 January 383,- 1 May 408, died at Constantinople

12 **Solidus**, 4.45g, Constantinople, June-August 383-385, officina I

DN ARCADI-VS PF AVG, small bust of the child joint-emperor Arcadius right, diademed, draped and cuirassed
*rev* CONCORDI-A AVGGGG I, Constantinopolis seated right on throne with lions-head arm rests, wearing crested helmet, draped, holding sceptre in right hand, and orb in outstretched left, right foot on prow; in ex. CONOB (RIC IX,46f var,this officina not recorded; LRC pl.1,3 var,with rosette diadem; cf.Kent, NC 1993,80). *Exceptional style, extremely fine* £900-1000

From Numismatica Ars Classica auction, 25 February 1992 lot 608

The second issue following the raising of the six-year-old Arcadius to the rank of Augustus by his father on 19 January 383 and before the knowledge of the death of Gratian (25 August) was known at Constantinople. "Concordia" was a standard legend in the East for some forty years between 380 and 420. The four "augusti" of the AUGGGG legend are Theodosius I and Arcadius in the East, and Gratian and Valentinian II in the West

*See colour illustration*

13 **Solidus**, 4.47g, Milan, 395-402, no officina mark

DN ARCADI-VS PF AVG, bust of Arcadius right, diademed, draped and cuirassed
*rev* VICTORI-A AVGGG, Arcadius diademed, in armour and military cloak standing right holding standard and Victory on globe who crowns him with a wreath, and resting left foot on long-haired bearded barbarian with arms tied; in field M-D, in ex. COMOB (RIC X,1205c; LRC pl.10, 265-267). *Extremely fine* £340-380

There were only two Augusti between 395-402, but the legend of 394 remained immobilized and the issue cannot be precisely dated. Struck by Honorius for Arcadius; Honorius' move to Ravenna in 402 gives a terminus for general run of Milan coinage in precious metals

## **HONORIUS,** Augustus 393-423

Honorius, second son of Theodosius I, born 384, Augustus 22 January 393-15 August 423, died at Ravenna

14 **Solidus**, 4.49g, Constantinople, 403-408, officina H

DN HONORI-VS PF AVG, bust of Honorius facing slightly right, cuirassed, high crested helmet, diademed, holding spear over shoulder with right hand, and shield with horseman and fallen enemy motif
*rev* CONCORDI-A AVGGG H, Constantinopolis seated right on throne, lion's-head arm-rests now stylized, wearing crested helmet and draped, holding spear in right hand, and orb in outstretched left, right foot on prow; in field left, a star, in ex. CONOB (RIC X,30; MIRB pl.1,13a; for type, see Lacam XLI,B). *Extremely fine* £250-300

## THEODOSIUS II, Augustus 402-450

Theodosius, son of Arcadius and Eudoxia, raised to Augustus 10 January 402-28 July 450, died after injuring spine in a hunting accident

15 **Solidus**, 4.48g, Constantinople, 444

DN THEODO-SIVS PF AVG, bearded bust of Theodosius left, diademed, in consular robes, and holding mappa and cross-headed sceptre
*rev* IMP XXXXIIII - COS XVIII, nimbate and diademed Theodosius in consular robes enthroned facing, holding mappa and cross-headed sceptre; in field left, star, in ex. COMOB (RIC X,330; MIRB 11; Boyce NNM 153, pl.XII, 118). *Only four published specimens, good very fine, very rare* £4000-4500

From Bank Leu A.G. auction 50, 25 April 1990, lot 400

A very rare issue celebrating Theodosius' eighteenth and last consulship, and must have been struck in the first nine days of the year

## VALENTINIAN III, Augustus 425-455

Placidus Valentinianus, born AD 419, Caesar 16 October 424, Augustus 23 October 425-16 March 455, assassinated

16 **Solidus**, 4.48g, Rome, 435

DN PLA VALENTI-NIANVS PF AUG, bust of Valentinian left, diademed, in consular robes, and holding mappa and cross-headed sceptre
*rev* VOT X - MVLT XX, nimbate and diademed Valentinian in consular robes enthroned facing, feet on cushion, holding mappa and cross-headed sceptre; in field R-M, in ex. COMOB (RIC X,2034; Ulrich-Bansa "Milan" pl. I,r; Lacam "Civilisation et Monnaies Byzantines", pl. 26, lower; Boyce NNM 153 pl.XII,121). *Mark on obverse, good very fine, extremely rare* £2600-2800

From Bank Leu A.G. auction 50, 25 April 1990, lot 394 and auction 22, 8-9 May 1979, lot 408

Struck for Valentinian's Decennalia, and on the occasion of his fourth consulship

*See colour illustration*

## **MARCIAN,** Augustus 450-457

Marcianus, 24 August 450-?31 January 457, died aged 65

17 **Solidus** 4.46g, Constantinople 450-457, officina I

DN MARCIA-NVS PF AVG, bust of Marcian facing slightly right, cuirassed, high crested helmet, the diadem with three projecting jewels, holding spear over shoulder with right hand, and shield with horseman and fallen enemy motif
*rev* VICTORI-A AVGGG I, Victory standing left supporting long jewelled cross with right hand; in field right, star, in ex. CONOB (RIC X,510; MIRB 5b). *Good very fine* £300-400

## **LEO I,** Augustus 457-474

Leo, Augustus 7 February 457-18 January 474, died aged 73

18 **Solidus**, 4.43g, Constantinople, 458

DN LEO PE-RPET AVG (re-engraved over earlier legend, of which MARCIA-N is discernable), bust of emperor left, diademed, in consular robes, holding mappa and cross-headed sceptre
*rev*, VICTORI-A AVGGG, nimbate and diademed Leo in consular robes enthroned facing, feet on cushion, holding mappa and cross-headed sceptre; in field left, star, in ex. CONOB (RIC X,603; MIRB -). *About extremely fine* £5500-6000

From Bank Leu A.G. auction 50, 25 April 1990, lot 401, the undertype not recorded there

Leo I was consul five times. Not enough is known about his movements to be able to date this issue accurately, but the re-engraving of an obverse die of Marcian (for whom no such consular solidi are known), is significant, and suggests the earliest date, Leo's first Consulship of 458. It must have been originally prepared for Marcian's Consulship of 451; there are other recorded instances of a die surviving some five years or more. The reverse die, with "flattened" G's in AUGGG is a die of Leo.

*See colour enlargement*

19 **Solidus**, 4.39g, Thessalonica

DN LEO PERPET AVG, bust of Leo left, diademed, in consular robes, holding mappa and cross-headed sceptre
*rev* VICTORI-A AVGGG, nimbate and diademed Leo in consular robes enthroned facing, feet on cushion, holding mappa and cross-headed sceptre; in field left, star, in ex. THSOB (RIC X, 620; MIRB 13). *Extremely fine* £1600-1800

From the Moreira Collection, Superior Stamps and Coins auction, 10-11 December 1988, lot 2582

20 **Solidus**, 4.44g, Thessalonica

DN LEO PE-RPET AVG, bust of Leo facing slightly right, cuirassed, high crested helmet, the diadem with three projecting jewels, holding spear over shoulder with right hand, and shield with horseman and fallen enemy motif
*rev* VICTORI-A AVGGG, Victory standing left supporting long jewelled cross with right hand; in field left and right, star, in ex. THSOB (RIC X,618; LRC 555; MIRB 16; Lacam pl. XIII,4 (this coin). *Extremely fine, scarce* £600-700

From Numismatic Fine Arts auction XVIII, 1 April 1987, lot 615

## **LEO II** and **ZENO,** joint Augusti 473-474

Leo II, October 473-November 474, with his father Zeno, 9 February 474-9 January 475, who succeeded on the death of the grandson of Leo I aged about seven.

21 **Solidus** 4.48g, Constantinople 474

DN LEO ET Z-ENO PP AVG, stylized bust of Leo facing slightly right, cuirassed, high crested helmet, the diadem with three projecting jewels, holding spear over shoulder with right hand, and shield with horseman and fallen enemy motif
*rev* SALVS REI-PVBLICAE, Leo II on left and Zeno on right, both nimbate, seated together on throne each holding mappa across chest, cross between them, large star above (breaking legend); in ex. CONOB (RIC X,803; LRC 600)). *Extremely fine* £1600-1800

## **BASILISCUS** and **MARCUS**, 475-476

Basiliscus, 9 January 475-August 476, with his son Marcus, Caesar then Augustus

22 **Solidus** 4.44g, Constantinople, officina H

DN bASILISCI-ET MARC P AVG, stylized bust of Basiliscus facing slightly right, cuirassed, high crested helmet, the diadem with three projecting jewels, holding spear over shoulder with right hand, and shield with horseman and fallen enemy motif
*rev* SALVS REI-PVBLICAE H, Basiliscus on left and Marcus on right, both nimbate, seated together on throne each holding mappa across chest, and orb, cross between them, large star above (breaking legend); in ex. CONOB (RIC X,1022; LRC 621(officina Δ). *About extremely fine, rare* £750-850

From Spink and Son auction 68, 22-23 March 1989, lot 494

## **ZENO,** Augustus and **LEO,** Caesar, 476-477

Zeno's second "sole" reign, August 476-9 April 491, with Caesar Leo (first named Basiliscus), son of Armatus, Autumn 476-477, when Leo was deprived of his title and ordained as a priest; he eventually became Bishop of Cyzicus

23 **Solidus** 4.47g, Constantinople, officina E

DN ZENO ET L-EO NOV CAES, stylised bust of Zeno facing slightly right, cuirassed, high crested helmet, the diadem with three projecting jewels, holding spear over shoulder with right hand, and shield with horseman and fallen enemy motif
*rev* VICTORI-A AVGGG E, Victory standing left supporting long jewelled cross with right hand, star in field right; in ex. CONOB (RIC X,906; MIRB 6; for discussion of attribution see LRC p.181-183). *Extremely fine* £3200-3500

*See colour enlargement*

## **ZENO,** Augustus restored, 476-491

August 476-11 April 491

24 **Solidus** 4.39g, Thessalonica

DN ZENO-PERP AVG, stylized bust of Zeno facing slightly right, cuirassed, high crested helmet, the diadem with three projecting jewels, holding spear over shoulder with right hand, and shield with horseman and fallen enemy motif
*rev* VICTORI-A AVGGG, Victory standing left supporting long jewelled cross with right hand; in field left and right, star of eight points, in ex. CONOB (RIC X,939; LRC 666-668). *Practically as struck* £650-750

## ANASTASIUS I, 491-518

25 **Solidus** 4.48g, Constantinople 498, officina I

DN ANASTA-SIVS PP AVG, bust facing slightly right, helmeted, cuirassed, holding spear over right shoulder and shield with horseman motif on left arm
*rev* VICTORI-A AVGGG I, Victory standing left, holding long cross with reversed *chi-rho*, eight-pointed star to left; in ex. CONOB (DOC 6; MIB 6; S 4). *A very scarce issue with reversed chi-rho, extremely fine* £750-850

## JUSTIN I, 518-527

26 **Solidus** 4.45g, Constantinople, 519-527, officina E

DN IVSTI-NVS PP AVI, bust facing slightly right, helmeted, cuirassed, holding spear and shield
*rev* VICTORI-A AVGGG E, Angel standing facing, holding long cross and cross on globe, star in field right; in ex. CONOB (DOC 2; MIB 3; S 56). *Mint state* £500-600

From the William Herbert Hunt Collection, Sotheby New York, 5-6 December 1990, lot 55

27 **Solidus** 4.38g, Thessalonika, 518-522, no officina mark

DN IVSTI-NVS PP AVG, bust facing slightly right, helmeted cuirassed, holding spear and shield
*rev* VICTORI-A AVGGG (no officina letter) Victory standing left, holding long voided cross, stars in field to left and right; in ex. CONOB (DOC -; MIB 6; S 77A). *Curved flan, practically mint state, rare* £1300-1400

## With his nephew, Justinian I, April-August 527

28 **Solidus**, 4.47g, Constantinople, April-August 527, officina Θ

DN IVSTIN ET IVSTINAN PP AVG (sic), Justin to left, Justinian to right, both nimbate seated facing, each holding globe in left hand and their left knees advanced, small cross between heads; in ex. CONOB
*rev* VICTORI-A AVGGGΘ, Angel standing facing, holding long cross and cross on globe, star in field right; in ex. CONOB (DOC 5b; MIB 1d; S 120). *Almost extremely fine, very rare*
£1900-2000

From Numismatic Fine Arts auction XVIII, 1 April 1987, lot 659

## JUSTINIAN I, 527-565

29 **Solidus**, 4.40g, Constantinople, 538-545, officina Γ

DN IVSTINI-ANVS PP AVG, bust facing, helmeted and cuirassed, holding cross on globe and shield
*rev* VICTORI-A AVGGG Γ, Angel standing facing, holding long cross and cross on globe, small star in field right; in ex. CONOB (DOC 8b; MIB 6; S 139). *About extremely fine* £300-350

30 **Solidus**, 4.52g, Constantinople, 545-565, officina S

DN IVSTINI-ANVS PP AVG, bust facing, helmeted and cuirassed, holding cross on globe and shield
*rev* VICTORI-A AVGGG S, Angel standing facing, holding linear *rho*-headed staff and cross on globe, star in field right; in ex. CONOB (DOC 9f 1; MIB 7; S 140). *Mint state* £280-300

31 **Solidus**, 4.46g, Thessalonika, 538-545, no officina mark

DN IVSTINI-ANVS PP AVI, bust facing, helmeted and cuirassed, holding cross on globe and shield
*rev* VICTORI-A AVCCC, (no officina letter), Angel standing, facing, holding long linear cross and globe, star in field right; in ex. CONOB (DOC 7; MIB 22; S 138=Constantinople). *Extremely fine, rare* £600-700

32 **Tremissis**, 1.45g, Rome, 540-542

DN IVSTINI-ANVS PP AVG, bust right, diademed, draped and cuirassed
*rev* VICTORIA AVGVSTORVM (un-barred `A's), Victory advancing left, holding wreath and cross on globe, eight-pointed star in field right; in ex. RO(M)OB (DOC -; MIB 35; S 291a). *Pierced, very fine, extremely rare* £600-700

From Numismatic Ars Classica auction, 25 June 1992, lot 2334

33 **"Ceremonial" Miliarense**, 3.73g, Constantinople, 552-565

DN IVSTINI-ANVS PP AVG, bust right, draped and cuirassed, wearing diademed helmet, within border of large pellets
*rev* GLORIA RO-MANORVM, Justinian, nimbate, standing facing, head right, holding spear and cross on globe, star in field right, all within border of large pellets (DOC -; MIB 45; S 151; T 52), *Only this and the St. Petersburg specimen recorded, good very fine, excessively rare* £2600-3000

Although a light Miliarensis, this has the type of the "heavy" issue, and was probably struck when that denomination was falling in weight in the reign of Justinian

34 **Light Miliarense**, 4.32g, Constantinople, 527-538

DN IVSTINI-ANVS PP AVG, bust left, diademed, draped and cuirassed
*rev* GLORIA R-OMANORVM, Justinian, nimbate, standing facing, head to left, right hand raised, globe in left hand, star in field right; in ex. COB (DOC 26; MIB 47; S 154). *A beautiful specimen in high relief, extremely fine, very rare* £3200-3600

*See colour illustration*

35 **Follis**, 22.24g, Constantinople, regnal year 14, 540-541

DN IVSTINI-ANVS PP AVI, bust facing, helmeted and cuirassed, holding cross on globe and shield
*rev* large M between ANNO and X/II/II, officina A; in ex. CON (DOC 39a; MIB 95a; S 163). *Good very fine, scarce in this condition* £500-600

36 **Pentanummium**, 1.68g, Sicily, 538-565

DN IVSTINI-ANVS PP AVG, bust right, diademed, draped and cuirassed
*rev* large V in wreath (DOC 369; MIB 246; S 337). *Very fine, scarce* £30-40

## JUSTIN II, 565 - 578

Nephew of Justinian

37 **Solidus**, 4.46g, Ravenna, 565-578, officina Z

DN I-VSTI-NVS PP AVG, bust facing, helmeted and cuirassed, holding globe surmounted by Victory, and shield; heavy linear border
*rev* VICTORI-A AVCCC Z: Constantinopolis seated facing, head right, holding spear and cross on globe, in ex. CONOH (DOC 210; MIB 20 d; S 407var). *Good very fine, scarce* £500-600

From Sotheby auction, 5 October 1988, lot 998

38 **Solidus**, 4.51g, Alexandria, 565-578, officina I

DN I-VSTI-NVS PP AVI, bust facing, helmeted and cuirassed, holding globe surmounted by Victory, and shield
*rev* VICTORI - A AVCCC I, Constantinopolis seated facing, holding spear and cross on globe, cross in field left; in ex. CONOB (MIB 13a; DOC 6,Constantinople; S 347,Constantinople). *Minor die-flaw on obverse, good very fine, scarce* £400-600

## TIBERIUS II CONSTANTINE, 578-582

39 **Solidus**, 4.41g, Carthage, regnal year 6, AD 580

DM TIb CONS-TANT PP AV, bust facing, cuirassed, crowned, holding cross on globe and shield
*rev* VICTORI-A AVCC S, cross potent on four steps; in ex. CONOB (DOC 58b; MIB 13; S 462; Lacam pl.XLV,1 this coin). *Extremely fine, rare* £900-1000

From Numismatic Fine Arts auction XVIII, 1 April 1987, lot 694

The reverse legend now includes a Greek numeral for Tiberius' regnal year dated from his creation as Caesar, December 574, in this case S for 580 AD

*See colour illustration*

## MAURICE TIBERIUS, 582-602

A successful general, Maurice was picked by Tiberius II as his successor and married to his daughter Constantina. He was given the additional name Tiberius, and at the beginning of his reign either used this name alone, or with Maurice

40 **Solidus**, 4.46g, Constantinople, 582-583, officina H

DN TIbER M-AVRIC PP AV, bust facing, the crown with cross and pendilia, holding cross on globe and shield
*rev* VICTORI-A AVCC H, Angel standing holding long *rho*-headed staff and cross on globe; in ex. CONOB (DOC 3b; MIB 4; S 476). *Extremely fine, rare* £360-400

A brief early issue, with Maurice wearing a crown with a cross and the name Tiberius first, a type soon replaced by the image of the emperor wearing a crested helmet which continued throughout the reign. The name Maurice was then given precedence in the emperor's style

41 **Solidus**, 4.47g, Constantinople, July-November 602, officina Δ

DN MAVRC-TIb PP AVG, Maurice as Consul, enthroned facing, wearing crown and consular robes, holding mappa and cross
*rev* VICTORI-A AVGG Δ, Angel standing facing, holding long *rho*-headed staff, and cross on globe; in ex. CONOB (DOC 2b; MIB 2; S 474). *Mint state, extremely rare* £4400-5000

Maurice celebrated two consulships, in 583 and 602: this exceptional issue certainly marks the second of these because of the form of the Emperor's name

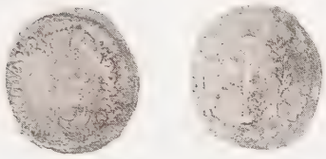
*See colour illustration*

From Giessener Münzhandlung auction 44, 3 April 1989 lot 1003

42 **Solidus**, 4.45g, Carthage, indiction I, 597-598

DN MAVRI-C Tb PP ANA, bust facing, helmeted and cuirassed, holding cross on globe
*rev* VICTORI-A AVGG A, Angel standing facing, holding long *rho*-headed staff, and cross on globe, in ex. CONOB (DOC 230; MIB 25b; S 549). *Extremely fine* £380-400

The letter A at the end of both the obverse and reverse legends is for the first of a new series of indictional dates, beginning 597-598, and the first example of a new mint practice. Prior to this, the letter on the obverse represented the *regnal* year and the reverse letter represented the *indictional* year. Coins of Tiberius Constantine exist with obverse AN H (year 8) and reverse IE (Indiction 15), both corresponding to AD 581/2, and for the first fifteen years of Maurice's reign the indictional date and the regnal year coincided. This coin would have shown the regnal year sixteen, but from now on the mint officials marked the indictional date on both sides.



43 **"Ceremonial" Siliqua**, 1.86g, Constantinople, 584-602

DN MAVRC-TIb PP AVG, bust right, diademed and helmeted, draped and cuirassed
*rev* cross potent between two palms (DOC -; MIB 56; S 489c). *The finer of only two recorded specimens, about extremely fine, excessively rare* £1800-2000

44 **Follis**, 11.71g, Antioch, 592-593, officina Γ

dN MAUΓI-CN P AUT, bust facing, wearing crown with trefoil ornament, and consular robes, holding mappa and eagle-tipped sceptre
*rev* large M between ANNO and XI with Γ beneath, in ex. THEUPS (DOC 163b; MIB 96; S 533). *Good very fine* £30-40

45 **Decanummium**, 2.78g, Antioch, 598-599

dN MAI-CN P AI, bust facing, wearing crown with trefoil ornament, and consular robes, holding mappa and eagle-tipped sceptre
*rev* large I with cross above, flanked by ANNO and XUII; in ex. THEU(P) (DOC 210; MIB 102c; S 537). *Very fine* £40-60

## THEODOSIUS, 590-602

Son of Maurice Tiberius

46 **Half-siliqua**, 0.61g, Carthage, 597-602

DN TEODOSIVS PP A, bust facing, draped and cuirassed, wearing diademed and plumed helmet
*rev* AME/NITA/S DEI in circle of pellets surrounded by wreath (DOC 305; MIB(Maurice) 60; S 614). *Tiny crack in flan, very fine, extremely rare* £500-600

## FOCAS, 602-610

47 **Solidus**, 4.48g, Constantinople, 602-603, officina Γ

DN FOCAS PERP AVG, bust facing, draped and cuirassed, wearing crown with pendilia and holding cross on globe
*rev.* VICTORI-A AVGG Γ, Angel standing facing, holding long *rho*-headed staff, and cross on globe, in ex. CONOB (DOC I; MIB 5; S 616; Lacam pl.XXXIX,A2 this coin). *Mint state.* £500-600

From Numismatic Fine Arts auction XVIII, 1 April 1987, lot 723

This variety, with pendilia to the emperor's crown, dates from the first year of the reign

48 **Solidus**, 4.51g, Carthage, indiction 6, before the end of August 603

DN FOCAC-PERP AVN S, bust facing, wearing crown with pendilia, consular robes and holding mappa and cross
*rev* VICTORI-A AVGG S, Angel standing holding long *rho*-headed staff, and cross on globe; in ex. CONOB (DOC 107 var; MIB 31 var; S 680). *About extremely fine, very rare* £900-1000

From Numismatic Fine Arts auction XVIII, 1 April 1987, lot 733

49 **Solidus**, 4.49g, Carthage, indiction 8, 604-605

DN FOCAS-PERP AN H, bust facing, crown with pendilia, draped and cuirassed, holding cross on globe
*rev* VICTORI-A AVGG H (= indictional date 604-605), Angel standing, holding long *rho*-headed staff, and cross on globe; in ex. CONOB (DOC 108; MIB 32; S 681). *Extremely fine, rare*
£400-500

50 **Solidus**, 4.47g, Jerusalem, c.608

DN FOCAS-PERP AVG, bust facing, crowned draped and cuirassed, holding cross on globe
*rev* VICTORI-A AVG (without Greek letter(s) following), Angel standing, holding long *rho*-headed staff and cross on globe; in ex. CONOB (BMC -; MIB 30,Cyprus with ΙΠ after reverse legend; DOC -). *Extremely fine, probably unique* £3500-4000

Hendy ("Studies in the Byzantine Monetary Economy, c.300-1450", Cambridge 1985, p. 415) mentions the existence of a mint at Jerusalem producing coins circa 608-615, which reflected the appointment of Bonosus as *Comes Orientis* by Focas in 608. Bonosus led the abortive resistance to Heraclius' forces in Palestine and Egypt. The staff of the mint of Jerusalem was presumably drawn from that of the mint of Antioch (the headquarters of the *Comes*), possibly by wholesale transfer, which would explain why Antioch never struck coins in the name of Heraclius. This coin without letters following the reverse legend would have been the first issue

*See colour enlargement*

## REVOLT OF HERACLIUS, 608-610

The exarch at Carthage, Heraclius, led the revolt in North Africa which his son, also Heraclius, took to Constantinople where he was crowned emperor following the execution of Phocas

51 **Solidus**, 4.51g, Alexandria, perhaps year 3, thus 610

DN ERACLIO CONSVLI BA, facing busts of Heraclius at left, and his father the exarch Heraclius, both bearded and wearing consular robes
*rev* VICTORI-A AVGG Γ , cross potent on four steps; in ex CONOB (DOC 10; MIB 4,Cyprus; S 718). *Rude style obverse, minor marks, extremely fine, extremely rare* £2800-3000

The coin is a mule, with consular obverse type and an imperial reverse using an old die, of Tiberius II.

*See colour enlargement*

## HERACLIUS, 610-641

52 **Solidus**, 4.47g, Ravenna, 611-613, legend ends H

DN HERAC-LIVS PP AVG, bust facing, draped and cuirassed, wearing plumed helmet with pendilia and holding a cross on globe
*rev* VICTORI-A AVGG H, cross potent on four steps; in ex. CONOB (DOC 270; MIB 109a ; S 895; Lacam pl. LXII-A 1,this coin). *Extremely fine, rare* £800-900

From Numismatic Fine Arts auction XVIII, 1 April 1987, lot 756

53 **Follis**, 14.02g, Syracuse, c. 620

Follis of Justinianus I, mint of Constantinople (S 159) countermarked by Heraclius, with crowned, draped and cuirassed bust of bearded Heraclius facing with monogram to right
*rev* countermarked with circular punch, large SCLS with line above (DOC 241d ff; MIB Km 4; S 882). *Countermark slightly imperfect, virtually as struck* £80-100

## With his son Heraclius Constantine, 613-641

54 **Solidus**, 4.31g, Western Mint (Rome?), indictional or regnal year 4

DD NN hERACLIVS ET hERA CONST PP AVG, facing crowned busts of Heraclius and Heraclius Constantine, each wearing paludamentum and cuirass
*rev* VICTORIA-AVGU Δ, cross potent on three steps; in ex. CONOB (DOC -; MIB -; S -). *Lightly double struck, extremely fine, rare and interesting* £550-600

From Numismatic Fine Arts auction XVIII, 1 April 1987, lot 780

The style of this coin, very neat and competent in design and execution, is unlike anything from Constantinople, and suggests a Western provenance.

55 **Solidus**, 4.51g, Jerusalem, 617-622, legend ends IX

ddNN hERACLIUS ET hERA CONST facing crowned busts of Heraclius and Heraclius Constantine, each wearing chlamys
*rev* VICTORIA-AVGU IX, cross potent on three steps; in ex. CONOB (DOC 187c,2, Alexandria, with busts on exergual line; MIB 77.7,Cyprus; S 852). *Extremely fine, rare* £550-600

56 **Follis**, 11.56g, Seleucia Isauriae, 616-617, officina B

Crude blundered legend, Heraclius and Heraclius Constantine standing facing, the crowns with cross, wearing chlamys and holding cross on globe
*rev* large M flanked by ANNO and date, year 7, B beneath, in ex SELISU (DOC 181b; MIB 193; S 845). *Apparently struck on an Antioch follis of Maurice Tiberius, virtually as struck* £90-100

From the William Herbert Hunt Collection, Sotheby New York, 5-6 December 1990, lot 287

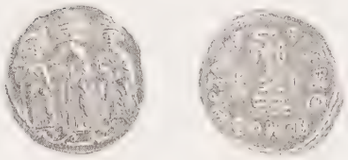
57 **Decanummium**, 4.27g, Catania, 625-626, regnal year 16

No legend, busts of Heraclius and Heraclius Constantine facing, both crowned, draped and cuirassed, cross between heads
*rev* large I flanked by ANNO and XG; in ex. CAT (DOC 257; MIB 241; S 886). *Very fine* £30-40

58 **Solidus**, 4.47g, Constantinople, 629-631, officina E

ddNN hERACLIUS ET hERA CONST PP AG, facing busts of Heraclius with long beard and moustache and Heraclius Constantine with slight beard and moustache
*rev* VICTORIA-AVGU E, cross potent on three steps; in ex. CONOB (DOC 26; MIB 29; S 749). *Extremely fine* £150-180

## With his sons Heraclius Constantine and Heraclonas, 638-641



59 **Solidus**, 4.45g, Constantinople, 636-637, officina E

No legend, standing figures of Heraclius in centre, Heraclius Constantine at right and Heraclonas at left, each wearing chlamys and holding cross on globe; Heraclius and elder son are crowned, Heraclonas is uncrowned with detached cross above head
*rev* VICTORIA-AVGU E, cross potent on three steps, monogram at left, I at right; in ex. CONOB (DOC 36; MIB 42; S 761). *Extremely fine* £150-180

## CONSTANS II, 641-668

The son of Heraclius Constantine, this Emperor was also officially Constantine, but the name was popularly abbreviated to Constans

60 **Semissis**, 2.16g, Constantinople, 642-668

dN CONSTAN-TINUS PP AV, bust right, diademed, draped and cuirassed
*rev* VICTORIA AVGUS, cross potent on globe (DOC 44; MIB 50; S 983). *Extremely fine* £140-160

61 **Tremissis**, 1.41g, Constantinople, 642-668

dN CONSTAN-TINUS PP AV, profile bust right,diademed,draped and cuirassed
*rev* VICTORIA AVGUS, cross potent on base (DOC 45; MIB 51; S 984). *Extremely fine* £80-100

62 **Follis**, 4.59g, Syracuse, 11th indiction, 652-653

INΔ-IA , Emperor standing, wearing chlamys and holding cross on globe
*rev* large M , cross above; in ex. SCL (DOC 179; MIB 208; S 1108). *Good fine* £20-30

## With his son Constantine IV, 654-668

63 **Solidus**, 4.54g, Constantinople, 654-659, officina S

dN CONSTANTINUS C CONSTANT', crowned facing busts of Constans with long beard and beardless Constantine IV, wearing chlamys, small cross between heads
*rev* VICTORIA-AVGU S, cross potent on three steps; in ex. CONOB I (DOC 26; MIB 28; S 960). *Extremely fine* £140-160

The C in the obverse legend is for *kai*, `and', replacing the ET used in Heraclius' reign

## CONSTANTINE IV, Pogonatus, 668-685

### With his brothers Heraclius and Tiberius, 668-681

64 **Solidus**, 4.48g, Constantinople, 668, officina Θ

dN CONST -TINUS C COS, young bust of emperor facing, crowned, wearing chlamys and holding cross on globe
*rev* VICTORI-A AVGU Θ+, cross potent on three steps between facing standing figures of Heraclius and Tiberius, each crowned, wearing chlamys and holding cross on globe; in ex. CONOB Θ (DOC -; MIB 2Bvar; S 1148var). *Unpublished exergual symbol, extremely fine, rare*
£900-1000

65 **Follis**, 17.96g, Constantinople, 669-673, officina B

dN CONSTAN-TINUS PP AU, bust facing, beardless, helmeted, cuirassed, holding cross on globe
*rev* large M between standing figures of Heraclius and Tiberius, each crowned, wearing chlamys and holding cross on globe, cross above, B below; in ex. CON (DOC 28; MIB 77; S 1173). *Very fine, rare*
£500-600

66 **Follis**, 3.87g, Syracuse, 668-674

No legend, bust of emperor facing, helmeted, cuirassed, holding cross on globe
*rev* large M between standing figures of Heraclius and Tiberius, monogram above; in ex. SCL (DOC 60; MIB 104; S 1207). *Good fine*
£20-30

67 **Solidus** 4.42g, Carthage, before 674

DON-VTP CC (fragmentary legend), bust facing with short beard and moustache, crowned, wearing chlamys and holding cross on globe
*rev* no legend, long cross on three steps over cross on globe between busts of Heraclius and Tiberius, each crowned and wearing chlamys (DOC 42 1; MIB 18; S 1187). *About extremely fine, rare* £240-260

## After the deposing of Heraclius and Tiberius, 681-685

68 **Solidus**, 4.52g, Constantinople, 681-685, officina Γ

P CONS-TANUS PP A, bust facing slightly right, short beard, helmeted, cuirassed, holding spear and shield
*rev* VICTORA-AVGU Γ, cross potent on three steps; in ex. CONOB (DOC 12, not this officina; MIB 10; S 1157). *Of particularly fine style, mint state* £900-1000

A remarkable change in the quality of the design and engraving is evident with the appearance of this type; an engraver of considerable talent has appeared at the mint whose influence extends over several subsequent reigns

*See colour illustration*

## JUSTINIAN II, First Reign, 685-695

Justinian ruled for ten years and was only twenty-six when he was deposed. His nose and tongue were split with the intention of making him ineligible for the purple, and he was exiled to the Crimea

69 **Solidus**, 4.45g, Constantinople, 685-686, officina Z

IUSTINIA-NUS PE AV, very young bust facing, beardless, the crown ornamented with cross, wearing chlamys and holding cross on globe
*rev* VICTORIA-AVGU Z, cross potent on three steps: in ex. CONOB (DOC 1b; MIB 1; S1242).
*Mint state, rare* £3000-3500

From Bank Leu auction 15, 4-5 May 1976, lot 467

Note the absence of D(ominus) N(oster),"Our Lord" before the Emperor's name. A beautiful coin, in high relief, continuing the very high artistic standards achieved late in the last reign

*See colour enlargement*

70 **Solidus**, 4.33g, Constantinople, 686-687, officina I

IUSTINIA-NUS PE AV, young bust facing, beardless, the crown with cross, wearing chlamys and holding cross on globe
*rev* VICTORIA-AVGU I, cross potent on three steps; in ex. CONOB (DOC 2; MIB 2; S 1243).
*Beautiful portrait in fine style, extremely fine, rare* £1100-1200

71 **Solidus** 4.46g, Constantinople, 687-692, officina S

D IUSTINIA-NUS PE AV, bust facing with short beard, the crown with with cross and circlet, wearing chlamys and holding cross on globe
*rev* VICTORIA-AVGU S, cross potent on three steps; in ex. CONOB (DOC 5e; MIB 6; S 1246).
*Mint state and rare* £900-1000

From the William Herbert Hunt Collection, Sotheby New York 5-6 December 1990, lot 445

The D(ominus) title appears to be revived on this issue, and the form is followed by his immediate successors

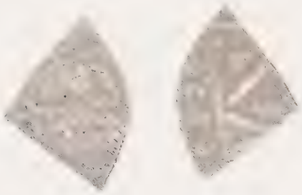
72 **Solidus**, 4.49g, Constantinople, 692-695, officina Γ

IhS CRISTOS REX-REGNANTIUM, bust of Christ facing with long hair and full beard, wearing pallium and colobium, raising right hand in benediction and carrying gospels in left: behind head, cross
*rev* D IUSTINI-AN-US SERV ChRISTI Γ, standing figure of Justinian, facing, crowned, wearing loros and holding cross potent on two steps in right hand, akakia in left; in ex CONOΓ (DOC 7c; MIB 8a var; S 1248). *An outstanding portrait of Christ, extremely fine, rare*
£2000-2200

From the William Herbert Hunt Collection, Sotheby New York, 5-6 December 1990, lot 453

The most important element in the design of Byzantine coins hitherto had been the bust of the emperor occupying the place of honour on the obverse. The third type of Justinian's gold coinage sees the replacement of the imperial effigy by that of Christ, with the emperor, Servant of Christ, on the reverse. This is the first appearance of representations of Christ, (or the Virgin or Saints) on the coinage

*See front cover and colour enlargement*



73 **Half-follis**, 2.93g, Constantinople, year 2, 686-687

No legend, facing bust with traces of short beard, crowned, wearing chlamys and holding cross on globe
*rev* large K flanked by ANNO - II (regnal date), cross above (DOC 2var; MIB 47var; S 1262).
*Very fine, scarce* £60-80

This specimen is struck on the cut-down quarter of an earlier follis, although nothing of the original striking remains

## LEONTIUS, 695-698

Leontius led a successful revolt against Justinian, but his defence of the empire was less effective: Carthage was finally lost to the Arabs in 698

74 **Solidus**, 4.47g, Constantinople, 695-698, officina S

D LEO-N PE AV, facing bust, bearded, crowned, wearing loros and holding akakia and cross on globe
*rev* VICTORIA-AVGU S, cross potent on three steps; in ex. CONOB (DOC 1f; MIB 1; S 1330).
*Mint state and rare* £1100-1200

75 **Solidus**, 4.04g, Syracuse, indiction 10 (696-697)

D LE-N AG , bust facing, bearded, crowned, wearing loros and holding akakia and cross on globe
*rev* VICTORIA-AUGU Θ, cross potent on three steps, in field to left, four pellets cruciform, to right, I (indiction 10); in ex. CONOB (DOC 13; MIB 9, S 1340). *Uneven flan as struck, good very fine, very rare*
£900-1000

## **TIBERIUS III**, Apsimar, 698-705

The reign of Apsimar, who changed his name to Tiberius upon his accession following the defeat of Leontius, saw the continuing advance of the Arabs across Africa to the Atlantic coast

76 **Solidus**, 4.28g, Constantinople, 698-705, officina B

D TIbERI-US PE - AV, bust facing, with short beard, crowned, wearing cuirass and holding spear diagonally across body, and shield
*rev* VICTORIA-AVGU B, cross potent on three steps; in ex. CONOB (DOC 1b; MIB 1; S 1360). *Extremely fine* £600-700

77 **Solidus**, 3.18g, Sardinia, 698-705

D TIbERI-US PE-AV, bust facing with short beard, crowned, wearing cuirass and holding spear diagonally across body, and shield
*rev* VICTORIA-AVGU M, cross potent on three steps, large pellet to left, P to right (cf.DOC 17=Tolstoi 26, pellet and S in field; T 25 with star and P; S 1371-1374a). *An unpublished variety, very fine, extremely rare* £600-700

## JUSTINIAN II, second reign, 705-711

Despite his mutilation, Justinian returned from exile and resumed power with the execution of Leontius and Tiberius

78 **Solidus**, 4.42g, Constantinople, 705

d N IhS ChS REX-REGNANTIUM, young bust of Christ facing, short curly hair, cross behind head, wearing pallium and colobium and raising right hand in benediction
*rev* d N IUS-TINIA-NUS MULTUS AN', bust of emperor facing, with short beard, crowned, wearing loros and holding cross potent on three steps in right hand, and patriarchal cross on globe inscribed PAX in left (DOC 1; MIB 1; S 1413). *Mint state* £1200-1400

The bust of Christ differs from the *Pantocrator* type of his earlier coins, and was believed to be the "true likeness". Note also the introduction of a long standing formula of acclamation, MULTUS AN(NOS), wishing the Emperor many years of rule

## With his son Tiberius, Augustus 705-711

79 **Solidus**, 4.42g, Constantinople, 705-711

D N IhS ChS REX-REGNANTIUM, young bust of Christ facing, short curly hair, cross behind head, wearing pallium and colobium and raising right hand in benediction
*rev* D N IVSTINIAN-US ET TIbERIUS PP A, half-length figures of Justinian (on left) and a smaller Tiberius, both crowned, wearing divitision and chlamys, holding cross potent on two steps between them (DOC 2a; MIB 2a; S 1414). *Extremely fine, scarce* £1200-1400

This is the first issue of a type depicting the young Tiberius, who was only six when put to death with his father. The deaths of Justinian and Tiberius ended the illustrious dynasty of Heraclius

## **PHILIPPICUS** (Bardanes), 711-713

The Armenian General, Bardanes, adopted the name Philippicus. When his portrait came before the Pope for acclamation, it was rejected because of his heretical beliefs

80 **Solidus**, 4.43g, Constantinople, 711-713, officina Z

DN FILEPICUS-MULTUS AN, bust facing with short beard, crowned, wearing loros and holding cross on globe and eagle-tipped sceptre
*rev* VICTORIA-AVGU Z, cross potent on three steps: in ex. CONOB (DOC 1g; MIB 1; Lacam pl.LXV,3, this coin; S 1447). *Full flan, extremely fine, rare* £2200-2400

From Numismatic Fine Arts auction XVIII, 1 April 1987, lot 872

Philippicus restored the traditional calvary cross type to the solidus; this is also the last appearance of the eagle-tipped sceptre in Byzantine numismatic art

*See colour enlargement*

## **THEODOSIUS III** of Adramytium, 715-717

81 **Solidus**, 4.45g, Constantinople, 715-717, officina E

dN THEOdO-SIUS MUL A, bust facing with short beard, crowned, wearing loros and holding patriarchal cross on globe and akakia
*rev* VICTORIA-AVGU E, cross potent on three steps; in ex. CONOB (DOC 1b; MIB 1; S 1487). *About mint state, very rare* £5000-6000

From the William Herbert Hunt Collection, Sotheby New York 5-6 December 1990, lot 553

*See colour enlargement*

## **LEO III**, the Isaurian, 717-741

## With his son, Constantine V, Augustus from 25 March 720

Iconoclasm (opposition to the adoration of icons or pictorial representations of religious subjects) was the official policy of Leo from 726, and made its impact on the coinage of the period. The bust of Christ is replaced by members of the imperial family.

82 **Solidus**, 4.41g, Constantinople, 720

dNO LEO-N PA MUL, bust facing, with short beard, crowned, wearing chlamys, and holding cross on globe and akakia
*rev* dN CONST-ANTINUS M I, facing bust of young Constantine V, beardless, crowned, wearing chlamys, and holding cross on globe and akakia (DOC 3f; BMC 14; S 1504). *Mint state* £600-700

From the William Herbert Hunt Collection, Sotheby New York 5-6 December 1990, lot 574

83 **Half Tremissis** 0.70g, Constantinople, 720-c.725

d LEO-N MUL, bust of Leo facing, holding cross on globe and akakia
*rev* d CONST-ANTINUS, bust of Constantine facing holding cross on globe and akakia (DOC (19) this coin; BMC -; S 1509). *Very fine, one of only two known specimens* £2200-2400

*See colour illustration*

84 **Follis**, 2.40g, Syracuse, 721 - c.730

Legend off flan, bust of Leo facing, with short beard, crowned, wearing chlamys and holding cross on globe and akakia
*rev* bust of Constantine facing, crowned, wearing chlamys and holding cross on globe and akakia, set on exergual bar, SC-L flanking large M below (DOC 54; BMC -; S 1530). *Irregular flan, green patina, very fine, rare* £60-80

## **ARTAVASDUS**, 742-743

### With his son Nicephorus

Artavasdus interrupted his brother-in-law Constantine's succession to the title of his father, but he was soon defeated and publicly blinded

85 **Solidus** 4.43g, Constantinople, 742-743

d APTAVA-SDOS MULT, bust facing with slight beard, crowned, wearing chlamys and holding small patriarchial cross in front of his body
*rev* d NIChFOR-US MULTU A, bust facing with slight beard, crowned, wearing chlamys and holding small patriarchal cross in front of his body (DOC 2a; BMC p.391; S 1542). *Slight striking imperfection, extremely fine, extremely rare, of considerable historical and numismatic importance* £10,000-12,000

From Numismatic Fine Arts auction XVIII, 1 April 1987, lot 887

The design with patriarchal cross held across the body is unique to the coinage of Artavasdus

*See colour enlargement*

86 **Miliaresion**, 1.76g, Constantinople, 742-742

IhSUS XRIS-TUS NICA, cross potent on three steps, triple border
*rev* ART/AVASDO/S S NIChF/OROS EC/ΘEU bAS/ILIS+ in six lines, triple border (DOC 6; BMC p.391; S 1545). *Some minor encrustation, about very fine, extremely rare* £1400-1600

## **CONSTANTINE V,** Copronymus, 741-775

### With his son Leo IV, Augustus from 6 June 751

The long reign of Leo III's son saw victories against the Arabs and an undermining of the Byzantine position in the West, where Constantine's vigorous iconoclastic actions were ill-received.

87 **Solidus** 4.43g, Constantinople, 757-775

COhSTAhTINOS S LEON O hEOS, facing busts of Constantine V at left with short beard, and Leo IV, beardless, each crowned and wearing chlamys, a cross above
*rev* d LE-ON P A MUL, facing bust of Leo III, crowned and wearing loros, holding cross potent (DOC 2d; BMC -; S 1551). *Extremely fine* £900-1000

From Bank Leu Auction 45, 26 May 1988, lot 419

## **LEO IV,** the Khazar, 775-780

### With his son Constantine VI, Augustus from 24 April 776

Leo's mother was a Khazar princess: his wife Irene was Athenian, and moderated the persecution of iconodules

88 **Solidus** 4.42g, Constantinople, 778-780

LEON VS S EGGON CONSTANTINOS O NEOS, Leo IV (on left) and Constantine VI seated facing on double throne, each crowned and wearing chlamys, a cross between their heads
*rev* LEON PAP' CONSTANTINOS PATH , facing busts of Leo III (on left) and Constantine V, both with short beards, each crowned and wearing loros, a cross above (DOC 2; BMC 5; S 1584). *Reverse slightly weak, good very fine, scarce* £900-1000

From the William Herbert Hunt Collection, Sotheby New York 5-6 December 1990, lot 614

The association of the emperor's family with him on the coinage reaches a new level, with the grandfather and father of Leo IV included with his own son

*See colour illustration*

89 **Follis**, 4.99g, Constantinople, 776-778

No legend, facing busts of Leo IV at left, and Constantine VI, both with short beards, crowned and wearing loros, cross above
*rev* B - A, facing busts of Leo III at left, and Constantine V, both with short beards, crowned and wearing loros, set on exergual line, large M between X and N below (DOC; BMC 11-13; S 1586). *About very fine* £120-140

## **CONSTANTINE VI** with his mother **IRENE**, 780-797

90 **Solidus**, 4.46g, Constantiniple, 790-792

CONSTANTINOS CA,VOI, facing busts of beardless Constantine VI at left wearing chlamys and holding cross on globe, and Irene wearing loros and holding cruciform sceptre; both crowned, a cross between their heads
*rev* S IRINI- AVG AV MITHR, Leo III, Constantine V and Leo IV seated facing, each crowned and wearing chlamys (DOC 2a; BMC 1; Lacam pl.LXIX-B, this coin; S 1591). *The usual weak striking for this type, about extremely fine, very rare* £2000-2400

From Hess Leu Auction 49, 1971, lot 538 and Numismatic Fine Arts auction XVIII, 1 April 1987, lot 895

Constantine's first coinage follows a tradition by including as many of his ancestors as possible; his mother Irene, his father Leo IV, grandfather Constantine V and great grandfather Leo III

91 **Solidus**, 4.38g, Constantinople, 792-797

IRINH AΓOVSTI, bust of Irene facing, crowned, wearing loros and holding cross on globe and cruciform sceptre
*rev* CONSTANTINOS bAS Θ, bust of Constantine VI facing, beardless, crowned, wearing chlamys and holding cross on globe and akakia (DOC 3; BMC 5; S 1594). *Insignificant flan flaw at 11 o'clock on obverse, extremely fine, very rare* £4600-4800

Irene, wife of Leo IV, had assumed the regency on behalf of her young son on the death of her husband. When he proved himself a poor ruler, she had power enough to have him deposed and blinded. This is a remarkable coin, the obverse with bust of Irene and title *Augusta*, Constantine as *Basileus* (the first appearance on gold) on the reverse

*See colour enlargement*

## NICEPHORUS I, 802-811

Nicephorus' reforms in the financial sphere, and his successes in restoring Byzantine power in Peloponnesos came at a time that the death of Harun al-Rashid also weakened the power of the Abbasid state. His initial successes against the Bulgarians were reversed by the ambush and defeat of the army and his own death, the first emperor to die in battle against "barbarians" since Valens in 378

### In his name alone, 1 November 802-December 803

92 **Solidus**, 4.44g, Constantinople, 802-803

NICI-FOROS bASILE', bust facing with short beard, crowned, wearing chlamys and holding cross potent and akakia
*rev* IhSUS XRIS-TUS NICA ⊕, cross potent on three steps (DOC 1a; BMC 1; S 1603). *Practically mint state, very rare* £4200-4500

From the William Herbert Hunt Collection, Sotheby New York 5-6 December 1990, lot 629

An exceptional solidus of Nicephorus' sole reign which adopts as its reverse the type and inscription of the miliaresion

*See colour enlargement*

93 **Follis**, 4.72g, Constantinople, 802-803

NI-CIFOR' bAS', facing bust with short beard, crowned, wearing chlamys and holding cross potent and akakia
*rev* large M, XXX at left, NNN at right, cross above, A below (DOC 4; BMC 2-3; S 1606). *About very fine, rare* £40-60

## Joint reign with his son Stauracius,
who was himself sole Augustus from 25 July to 2 October 811

94 **Follis**, 3.97g, Syracuse, 803-811

N-[I-K-H], bust of Nicephorus facing with short beard, crowned, wearing loros and holding cross potent
*rev* C-T-A-V, facing bust of Stauracius, beardless, crowned, wearing chlamys and holding cross on globe (DOC 10; BMC 13/14; S 1612). *Green patina, about very fine, scarce* £70-80

## **MICHAEL I,** Rhangabe, 811-813

## Joint reign with his son Theophylactus, after 25 December 811

95 **Solidus**, 4.38g, Constantinople

MIXA-HL bASILE', bust facing with short beard, crowned, wearing chlamys and holding cross potent and akakia
*rev* ΘEOFVLA-CTOS DESP' X, facing bust of Theophylactus, beardless, crowned, wearing loros and holding cross on globe and cruciform sceptre (DOC 1a; BMC 1; S 1615). *About good very fine, very rare* £2400-2600

From the William Herbert Hunt Collection, Sotheby New York 5-6 December 1990, lot 633

*See colour illustration*

## In his name alone

96 **Follis**, 5.35g, Constantinople

MIXAHL [BASILE'], bust facing with short beard, crowned, wearing loros and holding cross on globe and cruciform sceptre
*rev* large M between XXX and NNN, cross above, A beneath (DOC 7; BMC p.406; S 1617). *Some verdigris, fine, rare* £30-40

## **LEO V,** the Armenian, 813-820

## With his bust alone

97 **Follis**, 7.30g, Constantinople, AD 813

LE-ON bASIL', bust facing with short beard, crowned, wearing chlamys and holding cross potent and akakia
*rev* large M, cross above, XXX at left, NNN at right, A below (DOC 6var; BMC 6; S 1629). *Some verdigris, very fine, scarce* £70-80

## Joint reign with his son Constantine, December 813-820

98 **Solidus**, 4.47g, Constantinople

LE-ON bASILEU', bust facing with short beard, crowned, wearing chlamys and holding cross potent and akakia
*rev* CONST-ANT DESP'E, facing bust of Constantine, beardless, crowned, wearing chlamys and holding cross on globe and akakia(DOC 2a; BMC 1; S 1627). *Extremely fine, very rare* £1800-2000

From the William Herbert Hunt Collection, Sotheby New York 5-6 December 1990, lot 637

99 **Miliaresion**, 2.18g, Constantinople, 813-820

IhSUS XRISTUS NICA, cross potent on three steps, within border
*rev* +LEON/ S CONSTAN/TINE EC ΘEU/ bASILIS RO/MAION across field in five lines (DOC 4; BMC 4; S 1628). *Very fine, scarce* £90-100

## **MICHAEL II**, the Amorian, 820-829

### Sole Reign, 820-821

100 **Solidus**, 4.43g, Constantinople, 821

*MIX-AHL bASILE', bust facing with short beard, crowned, wearing chlamys and holding cross potent and akakia
*rev* MIXAH-L bASILEU' X, similar bust of Michael but wearing loros and holding cross on globe and cruciform sceptre (DOC 1var, reverse legend ends X not E; BMC -; S 1639). *Extremely fine/good very fine, extremely rare* £5000-6000

From Numismatic Fine Arts auction XVIII, 1 April 1987, lot 900

*See colour illustration*

### With his son Theophilus, 821-829

101 **Solidus**, 4.45g, Constantinople, 821-829

*MIXAHL-bASILEUS, bust facing with short beard, crowned, wearing chlamys and holding cross potent and akakia
*rev* ΘEOFI-LO dESP' +X, facing bust of Theophilos beardless, crowned, wearing loros and holding cross on globe and cruciform sceptre (DOC 5b; BMC 3; S 1640). *About good very fine, rare* £1000-1200

From the William Herbert Hunt Collection, Sotheby New York 5-6 December 1990, lot 641

102 **Follis**, 7.22g, Constantinople, 821-829

MIXAHL-S Θ-EOFILOS, facing busts of Michael with short beard, and Theophilos, beardless, both crowned, the former wearing chlamys, the latter a loros, cross between heads
*rev* large M between XXX and NNN, cross above, Θ beneath (DOC 10.11; BMC 6-10; S 1642). *About good very fine* £40-60

103 **Solidus**, 3.83g, Syracuse, 821-829
MI-XAHL b, bust of emperor with short beard, crowned, wearing loros and holding cross potent
*rev* ΘEO-FILOS (the F inverted), bust facing, beardless, crowned, wearing chlamys and holding cross on globe (DOC 14; BMC 13; S 1645). *Good very fine* £140-160

## THEOPHILUS, 829-842

104 **Solidus**, 4.49g, Constantinople, 829-830/1

*ΘEOFI-LOS bASILE', bust facing with short beard, crowned, wearing loros and holding cross on globe and cruciform sceptre
*rev* CVRIE bOHΘH TO SO dOVLO*E, patriarchal cross on three steps (DOC 1a; BMC 3; S 1655). *Extremely fine, very rare* £1800-2000

From the William Herbert Hunt Collection, Sotheby New York 5-6 December 1990, lot 647

*See colour illustration*

**105** **Semissis**, 1.70g, Syracuse, 831-842

ΘEO-FILOC, facing bust with short beard, wearing chlamys and holding cross on globe
*rev* ΘEO-FILOC, facing bust with short beard, wearing loros and holding cross on globe (DOC 26a; BMC 35; Lacam pl. LXXXVI A4 this coin; S 1673). *Extremely fine* £280-300

From Numismatic Fine Arts auction XVIII, 1 April 1987, lot 908

**106** **Follis**, 7.22g, Provincial mint, 830/1-842

ΘEOFIL-bASIL', three-quarter length figure of emperor facing, crown surmounted by tufa, wearing loros and holding labarum and cross on globe
*rev* +ΘEO/FILE AVG/OVSTE SV/NICAS, in four lines across field (DOC 17; BMC -; S 1685). *Very fine* £120-140

## With his deceased father Michael II, and son Constantine

**107** **Solidus**, 4.54g, Constantinople, 830/1-840

+ΘEOFI-LOS bASILE Θ, facing bust with short beard, crowned, wearing chlamys and holding patriarchal cross and akakia
*rev* +MIXAHL S CONSTANTIh', facing bust of Michael II on left, and Constantine, each crowned, wearing chlamys, a cross between their heads (DOC 3d: BMC 6; S 1653). *About mint state* £500-600

From the William Herbert Hunt Collection, Sotheby New York 5-6 December 1990, lot 654

## With his son Constantine (died 831)

108 **Solidus**, 4.46g, Constantinople, 830 or 831

*ΘEOFI-LOS bASILE, bust facing with short beard, crowned, wearing chlamys and holding patriarchal cross and akakia
*rev* +CONSTANT DESPOTI'Λ, facing bust of Constantine, beardless, crowned, wearing loros and holding patriarchal cross on globe and cruciform sceptre (DOC 2a; BMC 11; S 1654). *Very fine, extremely rare* £4000-5000

From Numismatic Fine Arts auction XVIII, 1 April 1987, lot 911

*See colour illustration*

## MICHAEL III, 842-867

## With his mother Theodora

109 **Solidus**, 4.41g, Constantinople, 843(?)-856

IhSUS X-RISTOS*, bust of Christ facing, bearded, cross behind head, wearing tunic and himation, right hand raised in blessing and holding book of Gospels in left
*rev* +MIXAHL S ΘEODORA, two busts facing, Michael, beardless, crowned, wearing chlamys, Theodora wearing loros and crown with pendilia, two pinnacles and cross (DOC 2; BMC 3-4; S 1687). *About extremely fine, very rare* £4000-5000

From Giessener Münzhandlung auction 44, 3 April 1989, lot 1035

The bust of Christ reappears on the obverse, apparently copied from the design of the solidi of Justinian II (first reign), though somewhat cruder. The revival in the representation of Christ on the coinage followed the "Acts of the Council" of 843 which restored images in a way which was to affect the appearance of the gold coinage thereafter.

*See colour enlargement*

With his bust alone

110 **Solidus**, 4.25g, Constantinople, 856-867

IhSUS X-RISTOS*, bust of Christ facing, bearded, cross behind head, wearing tunic and himation, right hand raised in blessing and holding book of Gospels in left
*rev* +MI-XAHL bASILE', bust facing, bearded, his crown with cross, wearing loros and holding labarum with cross in right hand and akakia in left (DOC 3; BMC 5-6; S 1688). *Extremely fine, very rare* £3500-4000

*See colour enlargement*

## **BASIL I**, The Macedonian, 867-886

With his son Constantine, Augustus 868, died 879

111 **Solidus**, 4.50g, Constantinople, 868-879

+IhS XPS REX-REGNANTIUM*, Christ enthroned facing, nimbate, wearing pallium and colobium, raising right hand in benediction and holding book of Gospels in left
*rev* bASILIOS ET COhSTANT' AUGG'b', facing busts of Basil with a short beard wearing loros and Constantine beardless, wearing chlamys, both crowned, holding patriarchal cross between them (DOC 2c; BMC 2-4; S 1704). *Good very fine* £500-600

From the William Herbert Hunt Collection, Sotheby New York 5-6 December 1990, lot 679

112 **Miliaresion**, 2.67g, Constantinople, 868-879

IhSUS XRI-STUS hICA, cross potent on three steps, globe beneath
*rev* +bASI/LIOS CE/ COhSTAh/TIh /PISTV/bASILIS/ROMEO' in double dotted border (DOC 7; BMC 6-7; S 1708). *About extremely fine* £100-120

## LEO VI, the Wise, 886-912

113 **Solidus**, 4.32g, Constantinople, 886-908

+MARIA+, facing bust of the Virgin *orans*, wearing pallium and maphorium, MR - ΘU in field
*rev* LEOh Eh XW- bASILEUS ROM,Wh, bust of Leo VI facing, with long beard, crown with cross, wearing chlamys with tablion and holding globe surmounted by patriarchal cross (DOC 1a; BMC 1; S 1723). *Very fine, extremely rare* £6000-7000

From the William Herbert Hunt Collection, Sotheby New York 5-6 December 1990, lot 688

This is the very first occasion that the Virgin appears on a Byzantine coin; the image, and the reverse portrait of Leo of unusual competence, are remarkable examples of Byzantine art

*See colour illustration*

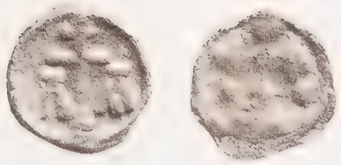
114 **Miliaresion**, 2.38g, Constantinople, 886-908

IhSUS XRI-STUS hICA, cross potent on three steps above globe
*rev* +LEWh/ Eh X'W EV/SEbHS bASI/LEVS RW/MAIWh in triple dotted border ornamented with globules (DOC 3; BMC 4-5; S 1726). *Good very fine, scarce* £260-300

## With his younger brother, co-emperor Alexander, 886-912

115 **Follis**, 8.69g, Constantinople, 886-912

+LEOh-S ALEXAhdROS, Leo and Alexander seated facing on double-throne each wearing crown and loros and holding labarum between them
*rev* +LEOh/S ALEXAh/dROS bASIL/ ROMEOh across field (DOC 6; BMC 11-12; S 1730). *Good fine* £30-40



**116** **Bronze** 3.94g, Cherson, 886-912

Patriarchal cross between Λ and A
*rev* cross foliate on two steps between two large pellets (DOC 12; BMC p.448; S 1734). *Good fine, scarce* £30-40

## With his son Constantine VII, 908-912

**117** **Solidus**, 4.33g, Constantinople, 908-912

+ IhS XPS REX-REGNANTIUM, Christ enthroned facing, nimbate, wearing pallium and colobium, raising right hand in benediction and holding book of Gospels in left
*rev* LEOh ET COhSTANT' AUGG' ROM, Leo and Constantine standing facing, each crowned, holding cross on globe, wearing divitision and loros, and holding long patriarchal cross between them (DOC 2; BMC 2-3; S 1725). *About extremely fine, very rare* £3000-4000

From the William Herbert Hunt Collection, Sotheby New York 5-6 December 1990, lot 691

*See colour illustration*

## **CONSTANTINE VII**, Porphyrogenitus, 913-959

With his father-in-law Romanus I Lecapenus,
Commander of the Fleet and Regent, 920-944

**118** **Solidus**, 4.46g, Constantinople, Winter 920-921

+IhS XPS REX-REGNANTIUM*, Christ enthroned facing, nimbate, wearing pallium and colobium, raising right hand in benediction and holding book of Gospels in left
*rev* COhSTAhT' CE ROMAh' AUGG [b], facing busts of Constantine beardless, and Romanus I with short beard, each crowned and wearing loros, holding long patriarchal cross between them (DOC 3; BMC -; S 1741). *Good very fine, very rare and historically interesting* £1000-1200

This brief issue must have been struck during the winter of 920/1, before Romanus I formally displaced Constantine as senior Augustus. Constantine VII is young and beardless and Romanus I is bearded, unlike the appearance on later coins of Romanus II who is always shown without a beard

## **ROMANUS I**, Lecapenus, 920-944

Senior Augustus with his son-in-law Constantine VII, Porphyrogenitus

**119** **Solidus**, 4.19g, Constantinople, 921

+ IhS XPS REX-REGNANTIUM*, Christ enthroned, nimbate, wearing pallium and colobium, raising right hand in benediction and holding book of Gospels in left
*rev* ROMAN' ET COhSTANT' AUGG' b, facing busts of Romanus I with short beard wearing loros, and Constantine VII beardless, both crowned, holding between them a long patriarchal cross (DOC 4; BMC 10; S 1746). *Good very fine, very rare* £900-1000

From Numismatic Fine Arts auction XVIII, 1 April 1987, lot 921

## With his son Christopher, and with Constantine VII, 921-931

**120** **Solidus**, 4.31g, Constantinople, 921

+ KE bOHΘEI- ROMAhW dESPOTH, Romanus I bearded standing facing, crowned, wearing loros and holding cross on globe, extending his left hand towards Christ who stands facing, cross behind his head, wearing pallium and colobium and crowning emperor with his right hand, holding book of Gospels in left
*rev* COhSTAhT ET XPISTOF' b' R', facing busts of Constantine VII wearing loros and Christopher wearing chlamys, both with short beards, crowned, holding long patriarchal cross between them (DOC 6; BMC 39; S 1743). *About extremely fine, very rare* £1800-2000

From the William Herbert Hunt Collection, Sotheby New York 5-6 December 1990, lot 700

*See colour illustration*

**121** **Solidus**, 4.47g, Constantinople, circa 930

+ IhS XPS REX-REGNANTIUM, Christ seated on throne with curved arms ornamented with pearls, wearing nimbus, pallium and colobium, raising right hand in benediction and holding book of Gospels in left
*rev* ROMAh' COhST' ET XPISTOF' b R, Romanus I, bearded, crowned, wearing loros and holding jewelled sceptre and akakia, standing facing between half-length figures of Constantine VII, beardless, and Christopher, with short beard, both crowned and wearing jewelled chlamys (DOC 8; BMC -; S 1742). *Good very fine, extremely rare* £10,000-12,000

*See colour enlargement*

## With his son Christopher, 921-931

122 **Solidus**, 4.32g, Constantinople, 921-931

+IhS XPS REX-REGNANTIUM*, Christ enthroned, nimbate, wearing pallium and colobium, raising right hand in benediction and holding book of Gospels in left
*rev* ROMAh' ET XPISTOFO' AUGG b', facing busts of Romanus I with short beard, wearing loros, and Christopher, beardless, wearing chlamys, both crowned, holding long patriarchal cross between them (DOC 7; BMC 35-8; S 1745). *Extremely fine* £600-700

## **CONSTANTINE VII**, Porphyrogenitus, sole reign, 945-959

After the deposition of Romanus

123 **Solidus**, 4.36g, Constantinople, 945

+IhS XPS REX REGNANTIUM+, bust of Christ facing, nimbate, wearing pallium and colobium, raising right hand in benediction and holding book of Gospels in left
*rev* +COhSTAhT' AVT' CRAT' b R, facing bust of Constantine with long beard, crowned, wearing vertical loros and holding patriarchal cross on globe (DOC 13; BMC 44; S 1747). *A superb example of the die-engraver's skill, extremely fine, extremely rare* £12,000-14000

*See colour enlargement*

## With his son Romanus II, 945-959

124 **Solidus**, 4.48g, Constantinople, 945

+IhS XPS REX-REGNANTIUM, Christ seated on throne with curved arms ornamented with pearls, his head small, with nimbus, and of fine style, wearing pallium and colobium, raising right hand in benediction and holding book of Gospels in left
*rev* COhSTAhT' CE ROMAh' AUGG b R', facing busts of Constantine with short beard wearing loros, and Romanus II, beardless wearing chlamys, both crowned and holding long patriarchal cross between them (DOC 14; BMC Const VII & Romanus I, 9; S 1750). *Extremely fine, very rare* £1200-1400

From Numismatic Fine Arts auction XVIII, 1 April 1987, lot 927

125 **Solidus**, 4.42g, Constantinople, 945-959

+IhS XPS REX REGNANTIVM, facing bust of Christ, nimbus with two pellets in each limb, wearing pallium and colobium, raising right hand in benediction and holding book of Gospels in left
*rev* ONSTAhT' CE ROMAh' AUGG III (*sic*), facing busts of Constantine with short beard wearing loros and Romanus II beardless wearing chlamys, both crowned, holding long patriarchal cross between them (DOC 15; BMC 65var; S 1751). *Extremely fine* £550-650

From Numismatic Fine Arts auction XVIII, 1 April 1987, lot 928

## NICEPHORUS II, Phocas, 963-969

## With his co-emperor Basil II, 963-969

126 **Histamenon Nomisma**, 4.39g, Constantinople, 963-969

+IhS XPS REX REGNANTIUM, bust of Christ facing, nimbate, wearing pallium and colobium, raising right hand in benediction, and holding book of Gospels in left
*rev* hICHFOR' CE bASIL' AUGG b R, facing busts of Nicephorus with short beard wearing loros, and Basil beardless wearing chlamys, both crowned, holding long patriarchal cross between them (DOC 1; BMC 2; S 1776). *Extremely fine, with a beautiful portrait of Christ, rare* £2000-2500

From the Nadia Kapamadji collection, Bourgey auction 27-29 October 1992, lot 493

The Histamenon Nomisma was the full weight solidus, a gold coin of fixed or standard weight, 24 keratia (c.4.40g)

## With his bust alone

127 **Histamenon Nomisma**, 4.43g, Constantinople, 963-969

+IhS XPS REX REGNANTIUM, bust of Christ facing, nimbate, wearing pallium and colobium, raising right hand in benediction and holding book of Gospels in left
*rev* +ΘEOTOC' b'HΘ hICHF, dESP, facing busts of Virgin nimbate, flanked by M-Θ, and Nicephorus with short beard, holding patriarchal cross between them (DOC 4; BMC 3; S 1778). *Extremely fine, rare* £1000-1200

## **JOHN I,** Tzimisces, 969-976

128 **Histamenon Nomisma**, 4.37g, Constantinople, 969-976

+IhS XIS REX REGNANTIhM, facing bust of Christ, nimbate, wearing pallium and colobium, raising right hand in benediction and holding book of Gospels in left
*rev* +ΘEOTOC- bOHΘ' IW dESP, facing busts of the Virgin nimbate, M-Θ above her head, crowning John shown with short beard, wearing loros and holding long patriarchal cross, *manus Dei* above his head (DOC 3; BMC -; S 1785). *Extremely fine, rare* £1000-1200

From the William Herbert Hunt Collection, Sotheby New York 5-6 December 1990, lot 726

## **BASIL II**, Bulgaroktonos,

## With his co-emperor and younger brother, Constantine VIII, 976-1025

129 **Histamenon Nomisma**, 4.41g, Constantinople, opening weeks of 977

+IhS XIS REX REGNANTIhM, bust of Christ facing, nimbate, wearing pallium and colobium, raising right hand in benediction and holding book of Gospels in left
*rev* +bASIL' C CONSTAhT' b' R', facing busts of Basil with short beard, wearing loros of square pattern, and Constantine, beardless, wearing plain chlamys, both crowned, holding long patriarchal cross between them (DO(1); BMC -; S 1795). *Obverse weak, extremely fine, extremely rare* £1600-1800

During this long reign the size and fabric of the gold coins gradually changed from small, thick flans to broad thin ones. This coin is one of the very earliest of the reign, of small module, and its output must have been very brief, in the opening weeks of 977

*See colour illustration*

130 **Histamenon Nomisma**, 4.41g, Constantinople, 1005-1025

+IhS XIS REX REGNANTIhM, bust of Christ facing, two circular ornaments within nimbus, wearing pallium and colobium, raising right hand in benediction and holding book of Gospels in left
*rev* +bASIL C COhSTAhT' b R, busts of Basil, with short beard, wearing loros, *manus Dei* above head, and Constantine, beardless, wearing jewelled chlamys, both crowned, holding long patriarchal cross between them (DOC 6; BMC 12 -13; S 1800). *Good very fine* £550-650

131 **Miliaresion**, 2.72g, Constantinople, 977

+IhSUS XRI-STUS hICA, patriarchal cross crosslet on four steps within triple border ornamented with eight equally spaced globules
*rev* +bASIL' C COhSTAh' ΠORFVROG' ΠISTV bAS' RWMAIW' across field, between ornaments, within triple border (DOC 16; BMC -; BN p.609; S 1808). *The best of three known specimens, very fine, exceptionally rare* £2800-3000

From the William Herbert Hunt Collection, Sotheby New York 21 June 1991, lot 107

132 **Follis**, 16.22g, Anonymous type, Constantinople, c. 976

+EMMA-NOVHA , bust of Christ facing, nimbus cross with two pellets in each limb, wearing pallium and colobium, and holding book of Gospels, IC - XC to left and right
*rev* +IhSUS/XRISTUS/bASILEU/bASILE (DOC A2.2var; BMC John I, 32var; S 1813). *Green patina, a beautiful portrait of Christ, very fine* £30-40

133 **Follis**, 14.46g, Anonymous type, Constantinople, 980-1025

+EMMA-NOVHA, bust of Christ facing, nimbus cross with two pellets in each limb, wearing pallium and colobium and holding a book of Gospels, IC - XC to left and right
*rev* +IhSUS/XRISTUS/bASILEU/bASILE, ornament above (DOC A2.26; BMC John I, 16var; S 1813). *Outstanding portrait of Christ, very fine* £30-40

## **CONSTANTINE VIII**, 1025-1028

Constantine outlived his brother by merely three years

**134** **Histamenon Nomisma**, 4.42g, Constantinople, 1025-1028

+IhS XIS REX REGNANTIhM, bust of Christ facing, nimbus ornamented with two crescents in upper quarters, wearing pallium and colobium, raising right hand in benediction and holding book of Gospels in left
*rev* +CWhSTANTIh bASILEUS ROM, bust facing with long beard, crowned, wearing loros and holding labarum and akakia (DOC 1; BMC 3-5; S 1815). *Extremely fine* £350-400

From Numismatic Fine Arts auction XVIII, 1 April 1987, lot 945

## **ROMANUS III**, Argyrus, 1028-1034

Romanus married Constantine's daughter, Zoe, and thus succeeded his father-in-law in the purple

**135** **Histamenon Nomisma**, 4.40g, Constantinople, 1028-1034

+IhS XIS REX-REGNANTIhM, Christ enthroned facing, nimbate, wearing pallium and colobium, raising right hand in benediction, and holding book of Gospels in left
*rev* ΘCE bOHΘ- RWMAhW, the Virgin nimbate and Romanus bearded, both standing facing, Virgin wearing pallium and colobium, her right hand crowning emperor wearing saccos and loros and holding cross on globe, M-Θ between heads (DOC 1d; BMC 1-3; S 1819). *Extremely fine* £300-350

136 **Miliaresion**, 2.94g, Constantinople, 1030(?)

+ΠΑΡΘΕΝΕ-COI ΠΟΛVAINE, the Virgin Hodegetria, nimbate, standing on footstool, wearing pallium and maphorium and holding the infant nimbate Christ; at left and right M - Θ
*rev* OC HAΠIKE ΠAN-TA KATOPΘOI, Romanus, bearded, standing facing on footstool, crowned, wearing saccos and loros, and holding long patriarchal cross and globe surmounted by patriarchal cross, all within pelleted triple border (DOC 3a; BMC Romanus IV, 7; S 1822). *Probably the finest known, certainly a very fine and attractive example, extremely rare*

£6000-7000

From the William Herbert Hunt Collection, Sotheby New York 5-6 December 1990, lot 757

The legend continues from obverse to reverse, "whosoever hath set his hope on Thee, Virgin all-glorious, prospereth in all his works". This remarkable coin, with rare representation of the Virgin Hodegetria is one of the most attractive in all of the Byzantine series

*See colour illustration*

137 **Follis**, 10.48g, Anonymous type, Constantinople, 1028-1034

+EMMA-NOVHΛ, bust of Christ facing, nimbus cross with four pellets in each limb and pellets between limbs, wearing pallium and colobium, and holding book of Gospels
*rev* IS - XS bAS-ILE / bAS-ILE set either side of cross on three steps (DOC pp.676-9; BMC Michael IV, 6-15; S 1823). *Good fine*

£30-40

## **MICHAEL IV,** The Paphlagonian, 1034-1041

Young Michael's marriage to the widow of old Romanus was indecently hasty. An epileptic, he relied heavily on his brother in affairs of state

**138** **Histamenon Nomisma**, 4.15g, Constantinople, 1034-1041

+IhS XIS REX REGNANTIhM, bust of Christ facing, nimbate, wearing pallium and colobium, raising right hand in benediction, and holding book of Gospels in left
*rev* +MIX-AH-L bASILEUS RM, bust of Michael facing, with short beard, crowned, wearing loros and holding labarum and cross on globe, *manus Dei* above his head (DOC 1d; BMC 1-5; S 1824). *About extremely fine, rare* £600-700

From Numismatic Fine Arts auction XVIII, 1 April 1987, lot 951

**139** **Histamenon Nomisma**, 4.44g, Constantinople, 1034-1041

+IhS XIS REX REGNANTIhM, bust of Christ facing, nimbate, wearing pallium and colobium, raising right hand in benediction, and holding book of Gospels in left
*rev* +MIX-AH-L bASILEUS RM, bust of Michael facing, with short beard, crowned, wearing loros and holding labarum and cross on globe (DO 1var; BMC 1-5var; S 1824var). *Unpublished without* manus Dei, *about extremely fine* £1000-1200

The hand of God does not appear above the emperor's head

**140** **Follis**, 7.82g, Anonymous type, Constantinople, 1034-1041

+ EMMA-NOVHΛ, three-quarter figure of Christ Antiphonetes standing facing, nimbate, wearing pallium and colobium, raising right hand in benediction and holding book of Gospels in left, IC - XC to left and right
*rev* IC-XC NI-KA in angles of large jewelled cross (DOC pp.681-4; BMC Theodora, 6-16; S 1825). *About very fine* £30-40

## ZOE, sole reign, 10-13 December 1041

The few days of Zoe's sole reign before the accession of Michael V allowed merely for the preparation for a coinage

**141** **Pattern Histamenon**, 15.89g, Constantinople, 1041

O/ AN/T/I (at left) Φ/W/NH/T (at right), three-quarter length facing figure of Christ Antiphonetes (DOC type IVc) bearded, two pellets in each arm of cross nimbus, wearing tunic and himation, raising right hand in blessing in front of body and holding book of Gospels in left; IC-XC above
*rev* +ZWH A-VΓ-OVCTH, bust of empress facing, wearing ornate costume with collar piece and crown with cross, pinnacles and pendilia, holding a jewelled sceptre in right hand, an orb in left, each surmounted by trefoil ornament (DOC (1); S 1825A; BMC -). *The only other known specimen of this pattern histamenon is less well preserved, in the Archaeological Museum, Istanbul; extremely fine, exceptionally rare* £16,000-18,000

Grierson, DOC III pt II, p.727 "The obverse type is the half-length facing figure of the Icon of Christ known as the Antiphonetes in the Church of the Virgin of the Chalkoprateia and recognisable by the curious gesture of benediction of Christ's right hand. This icon which is identified by the inscription on the pattern coin and also known from a mosaic formerly at Nicaea, was an object of special veneration to Zoe, who had a copy of it made for her private devotions and founded a Church in its honour, in which she was eventually buried"

*See colour illustration*

## **MICHAEL V**, Kalaphates, 1041-1042

Nephew of Michael IV, Michael sought to secure his position by sending Zoe to a nunnery, but after four months he was deposed

**142** **Histamenon Nomisma**, 4.40g, Constantinople, 1042

+IhS XIS REX-REGNANTIhM, Christ enthroned facing, nimbate, wearing pallium and colobium, raising right hand in benediction and holding book of Gospels in left
*rev* +MI-XAHL-ΔESΠOT', the winged Archangel Michael wearing tunic and mantle, and Michael V (*manus Dei* above) with short beard, wearing saccos and loros, standing facing, holding labarum between them (DOC 2 Thessalonika; BMC p.509; S 1826). *Extremely fine, extremely rare* £24,000-26,000

From the William Herbert Hunt Collection, Sotheby New York 5-6 December 1990, lot 764

No other coin has been attributed to Michael V, and some have argued that this coin also should be attributed to his uncle. In the absence of any other coinage for Michael V it is appropriate to place it here

*See colour enlargement*

## **CONSTANTINE IX,** Monomachus, 1042-1055

The senator Constantine Monomachus ascended the throne on 12th June 1042

**143** **Histamenon Nomisma**, 4.39g, Constantinople, 1042-1055

+IhS XIS REX REGNANTIhM, Christ seated facing on lyre-shaped throne, nimbate, wearing pallium and colobium, raising right hand in benediction and holding book of Gospels in left
*rev* +CWhSTA-hTh - bASILEU RM, bust facing, bearded, crowned, wearing loros and saccos, and holding cruciform sceptre with tendril ornament and globe surmounted by patriarchal cross (DOC 1a; BMC 8-11; S 1828). *Extremely fine* £180-200

**144** **Histamenon Nomisma**, 4.36g, Constantinople, 1042-1055

+IhS XIS REX REGNANTIhM, Christ seated on lyre-shaped throne, nimbate, wearing pallium and colobium, raising right hand in benediction and holding book of Gospels in left
*rev* +CWhST-AhTh-bASILEUS RM, bust of emperor facing, bearded, crowned, wearing loros and saccos, and holding cruciform sceptre with tendril ornament and globe surmounted by simple cross on crescent (DOC Ib; BMC -; S 1828A). *Extremely fine, rare* £700-800

*See colour illustration*

**145** **Histamenon Nomisma**, 4.41g, Constantinople, 1042-1055

+IhS XIS REX REGNANTIhM, Christ seated on lyre-shaped throne, nimbate, wearing pallium and colobium, raising right hand in benediction and holding book of Gospels in left
*rev* +CWhSTANTN-bASILEUS RM, bust facing, bearded, crowned, wearing loros and saccos and holding labarum and cross on globe (DOC 2; BMC 12-15; S 1829). *Extremely fine* £250-300

**146** **Histamenon Nomisma**, 4.39g, Constantinople, 1042-1055

+IhS XIS REX REGNANTIhM, Christ seated on lyre-shaped throne, nimbate, wearing pallium and colobium, raising right hand in benediction and holding book of Gospels in left
*rev* +CWhS-ATh-bASILEUS RM, bust of emperor facing, bearded, crowned, wearing loros and holding long cross and globe surmounted by pelleted cross (DOC 3; BMC Constantine VIII, 6-9; S 1830). *Extremely fine* £200-240

From the William Herbert Hunt Collection, Sotheby New York 5-6 December 1990, lot 771

**147** **Histamenon Nomisma**, 4.39g, Constantinople, 1054(?)-1055

+IhS XIS REX REGNANTIhM, Christ seated on lyre-shaped throne, nimbate, wearing pallium and colobium, raising right hand in benediction and holding book of Gospels in left
*rev* +CWhSTAhT-IhOS bASILEUS RM, bust of Constantine facing, bearded, crowned, wearing jewelled chlamys and holding cross on globe and hilt of sword; in field on either side a large star (DOC 4c; BMC 6-7; S 1831). *Extremely fine, rare* £1200-1400

The stars in the reverse field of this "*solidus stellatus*" are believed to mark a dramatic celestial event which must have been of awe inspiring appearance, the explosion in the heavens of a supernova star in the Crab Nebula during the year 1054. Chinese astrologers recorded the event; the brilliance was such as to be visible in daylight and is said to have lasted until about April 1056

*See colour illustration*

**148** **Tetarteron Nomisma**, 4.03g, Constantinople, 1042-1055

+IhS XIS REX REGNANTIhM, bust of Christ facing, nimbate, wearing pallium and colobium, raising right hand in benediction and holding book of Gospels in left
*rev* CWhST-ATh - bASILEUS RM, bust of emperor facing, bearded, crowned, wearing jewelled chlamys and holding jewelled sceptre with trefoil top and plain cross on globe (DOC 5b.1; BMC 1-3var; S 1832var). *Extremely fine, scarce* £600-700

A visible debasement of the gold coinage was occurring at this time, coins varying in fineness from about 22 to 19 carats

149 **Tetarteron Nomisma**, 4.04g, Constantinople, 1042-1055

+IhS XIS REX REGNANTIhM, bust of Christ facing, nimbate, wearing pallium and colobium, raising right hand in benediction and holding book of Gospels in left
*rev* CWh-AhT-hOS IL RM, bust of emperor facing, crowned, wearing jewelled chlamys, and holding labarum and globe surmounted by jewelled cross (DOC 6; BMC 4-5; S 1833). *Pleasant tone, extremely fine* £700-800

150 **Miliaresion**, 2.88g, Constantinople, 1042-1055

+ΔΕCΠΟΙ- NA CWZOIC, The Virgin *orans*, nimbate, standing facing on footstool, wearing pallium and maphorium; in field MP- UΘ
*rev* EVCERH MONOMAXON, Constantine standing facing, bearded, crowned, wearing cuirass, tunic, cloak and high boots, holding long cross in right hand and resting left on sword in sheath (DOC 7; BMC 16-17; S 1834). *Unusually well struck, good very fine, very rare* £2800-3000

*See colour illustration*

151 **Two-thirds Miliaresion**, 2.09g, Constantinople, 1042-1055

H RΛΑΧΕΡ-NITICA, facing bust of Virgin *orans*, nimbate, wearing pallium and maphorium; in field MP- ΘV
*rev* ΘKE R.Θ / KWNCTAN/TINW ΔEC/ΠOTH TW/ MONOMA/ X, in six lines, decoration above and below (DOC 8a; BMC 18; S 1835). *About good very fine, very rare* £700-800

From the Leu Numismatik/Numismatica Ars Classica auction, 26 May 1993, lot 258

152 **Follis**, Anonymous type, class D, 10.79g, Constantinople

IC - XC, Christ seated facing on high-backed throne, nimbate, wearing pallium and colobium and holding book of Gospels in both hands
*rev* IS XS/ bASILE/ bASIL/ in three lines, ornament above and below (DOC pp.685-7; BMC(Constantine X) 10-17; S 1836). *Very fine* £30-40

## THEODORA, 1055-1056

Theodora, elderly daughter of Constantine VIII, last survivor of the Macedonian dynasty founded by Basil in 867

153 **Histamenon Nomisma**, 4.39g, Constantinople, 1055-1056

+IhS XIS REX- REGNANTIhM, Christ standing facing on footstool, nimbate, wearing pallium and colobium and holding book of Gospels
*rev* +ΘEOΔWPA - AVΓOVCTA Theodora at left, crowned, wearing saccos and loros, and Virgin, nimbate, wearing pallium and maphorium and flanked by M - Θ, standing facing, holding labarum between them (DOC 1a; BMC 4-5; S 1837). *Extremely fine, rare* £1200-1400

*See colour illustration*

154 **Tetarteron Nomisma**, 4.01g, Constantinople, 1055-1056

IC-XC, bust of Christ facing, nimbate, wearing pallium and colobium, raising right hand in benediction and holding book of Gospels in left,
*rev* +ΘEOΔWP - AVΓOV, bust of empress facing, crowned, wearing saccos and loros, holding jewelled sceptre in right hand, jewelled cross on globe in left (DOC 2; BMC 1-3; S 1838). *Extremely fine, rare* £1500-1600

*See colour illustration*

155 **Two-thirds Miliaresion**, 1.76g, Constantinople, 1055-1056

H RΛΑΧΕΡ - NITICA, facing bust of Virgin *orans*, nimbate, wearing pallium and maphorium, flanked by MP-ΘU
*rev* -/+ΘΚΕ /ΡΟΗΘΕΙ /ΘΕΟΔΩΡΑ /ΔΕCΠΟΙΝΗ /ΤΗ ΠΟΡΦΥ/ΡΟΓΕΝΝ'/ -TW- in seven lines (DOC 3; BMC pp.506/7; S 1839). *Probably the finest of only four recorded specimens, good very fine, extremely rare* £3200-3500

## MICHAEL VI, Stratioticus, 1056-1057

The nominee of Theodora and the civil aristocracy, proved unacceptable to the military faction in Asia Minor

156 **Histamenon Nomisma**, 4.37g, Constantinople, 1056-1057

+IhS XPI REX REGNANTIhM, bust of Christ facing, nimbate, wearing pallium and colobium, raising right hand in benediction and holding book of Gospels in left
*rev* +MIXA-HL AuTOCRAT, the Virgin, nimbate, wearing pallium and maphorium standing facing, crowning Michael, bearded, wearing jewelled chlamys and holding jewelled cross on globe; above, M-Θ (DOC 1a; BMC(Michael V) 1; S 1840). *Extremely fine, extremely rare* £12,000-14,000

From Bank Leu Auction 15, 1956, lot 525 and Numismatic Fine Arts auction XVIII, 1 April 1987, lot 961

*See colour enlargement*

## **ISAAC I**, Comnenus, 1057-1059

Proclaimed by the army, but soon abdicated and retired to a monastery.

157 **Histamenon Nomisma**, 4.42g, Constantinople, 1057-1059

+IhS XII REX - REGNANTIhM, Christ enthroned facing, nimbate, wearing pallium and colobium, raising right hand in benediction and holding book of Gospels in left
*rev* +ICAAKIOC RA-CIΛEVC PN, Isaac bearded, crowned, standing facing in military tunic and cloak, holding drawn sword in right hand, resting left on sheath (DOC 2; BMC 2-3; S 1843). *About mint state* £500-600

158 **Histamenon Nomisma**, 4.41g, Constantinople, 1057-1059

+IhS XIS REX-RENANTIhM, Christ enthroned facing, nimbate, wearing pallium and colobium, raising right hand in benediction and holding book of Gospels in left
*rev* + ICAAKIOC - RACIΛEV PWM, Isaac standing, bearded, crowned, wearing military tunic and cloak, holding labarum in right hand and resting left on sword in sheath (DOC 1; BMC 4; S 1844). *About mint state* £500-600

159 **Tetarteron Nomisma**, 3.98g, Constantinople, 1057-1059

+ Ih XIS REX REGNANTIhM, bust of Christ facing, nimbate, wearing pallium and colobium, right hand raised in benediction in sling of cloak and holding book of Gospels in left
*rev* + ICAAKIOC-RACIΛEUC PM, Isaac standing facing, bearded, crowned, wearing military cloak and tunic, holding jewelled cross on globe in right hand and resting left on sword in sheath (DOC 3; BMC 1; S 1845; R 2006). *Extremely fine, very rare* £2400-2600

*See colour illustration*

**160** **Two-thirds Miliaresion**, 1.68g, Constantinople, 1057-1059

IC-XC, bust of Christ facing, cruciform nimbus, wearing pallium and colobium, raising right hand in benediction in sling of cloak and holding book of Gospels in left
*rev* -+- KE ROHΘ/ ICAAKIW/ OPΘO.ΔOXW' /ΔECΠOTH/ TW KOMNH/.NW. within border (DOC 4; BMC p.513; S 1846). *Small crack and chip at edge, good very fine, extremely rare*
£2400-2600

From the William Herbert Hunt Collection, Sotheby New York 5-6 December 1990, lot 811

Two examples in the Bibliothèque Nationale and one in Dumbarton Oaks: this is the fourth recorded example

## CONSTANTINE X, Ducas, 1059-1067

Acceded after the deposition of Isaac, supported by the civil aristocracy, influenced by the philosopher Michael Psellus, but unfit to deal with the threat to the empire from the Normans in South Italy, the Turks in the Balkans, and the Seljuqs in Asia Minor

**161** **Histamenon Nomisma**, 4.42g, Constantinople, 1059-1067

+IhS XIC REX- REGNANTIhM, Christ seated facing on throne with square back, nimbate, wearing pallium and colobium, raising right hand in benediction and holding book of Gospels in left
*rev* +KWN RAC' Λ' -O ΔOVKAC, emperor standing facing on footstool, bearded, crowned, wearing saccos and loros, holding long labarum and cross on globe (DOC 1a; BMC 3; S 1847). *Extremely fine*
£140-160

**162** **Histamenon Nomisma**, 4.36g, Constantinople, 1059-1067

+IhS IXS REX - REGNANTIhM; Christ seated facing on throne with curved back, nimbate, wearing pallium and colobium, raising right hand in benediction and holding book of Gospels in left
*rev* +KWN RACΛ-O ΔOVKAC, the Virgin, nimbate, wearing pallium and maphorium, standing crowning emperor, bearded, wearing saccos and loros, right hand on breast and holding cross on globe in left, M-Θ above and to right (DOC 2; BMC 6; S 1848). *Extremely fine*
£140-160

From the William Herbert Hunt Collection, Sotheby New York 5-6 December 1990, lot 816

**163** **Tetarteron Nomisma**, 4.05g, Constantinople, 1059-1067

MP-ΘV, bust of Virgin *orans* facing, nimbate, wearing pallium and maphorium
*rev* KWN-RACIΛ O ΔUK, bust of emperor facing, bearded, crowned, wearing loros, holding cross on globe in right hand and akakia in left (DOC 3; BMC 8; S 1849). *Extremely fine, scarce*
£650-750

**164** **Miliaresion**, 1.98g, with his wife Eudocia, Constantinople, 1059-1067

EN TOVTW NIKATE - KWN KAI EVΔOKIA, bust of Constantine at left, bearded, crowned, wearing jewelled chlamys, and Eudocia, crowned, wearing saccos and loros, flanking large cross crosslet on four steps, X at centre, pellet-in-crescent on shaft
*rev* +KWN/S EVΔOKIA /ΠICTOI RA/CIΛEIC PW/MAIWN in five lines between ornaments (DOC 4; BMC -; S 1850). *Very fine, very rare* £700-800

From the William Herbert Hunt Collection, Sotheby New York 5-6 December 1990, lot 821

165 **Two-thirds Miliaresion**, 1.62g, Constantinople, 1059-1067

+ΘEOTOK-ROHΘEI, the Virgin *orans*, standing facing on footstool, nimbate, wearing pallium and maphorium, MP-ΘV in field, rosettes beside nimbus
*rev* +ΘKE RO/HΘEI KWN/CTANTINW/ΔECΠOTH/TW ΔUKA/, ornament below (DOC 5; BMC -; S 1852). *A most attractive obverse, very fine, rare* £450-550

From the Nadia Kapamadji collection auction, Paris 27-29 October 1992 lot 537

166 **One-third Miliaresion**, 0.76g, Constantinople, 1059-1067

MP-ΘV, facing bust of Virgin *orans*, nimbate, wearing pallium and maphorium, border of pellets
*rev* ΘKERΘ/ KWN ΔEC/ΠOTH TW/ΔOVKA/ in four lines, three pellets below (DOC 7a, this coin; BMC -; S 1852A). *Pierced, about very fine, possibly a unique variety of the exceptionally rare one-third fraction* £400-500

From the William Herbert Hunt Collection, Sotheby New York 5-6 December 1990, lot 826

## EUDOCIA, 1067

### Wife of Constantine X

As regent, with her sons Michael and Constantius, 21 May - 31 December 1067, before her marriage to Romanus

167 **Histamenon Nomisma**, 4.34g, Constantinople, 1067

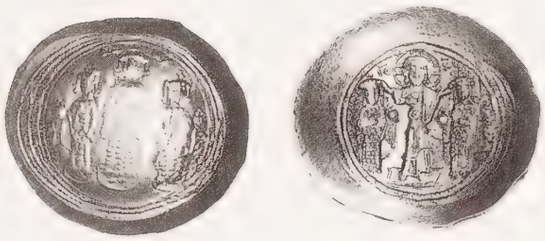
+IhS XIS RCIX- RCGNANTIhIM, Christ enthroned facing, nimbate, wearing pallium and colobium, raising right hand in benediction and holding book of Gospels in left
*rev* + MIX - EVΔK - KWhS, Eudocia standing facing on footstool, crowned, wearing saccos and loros and holding jewelled sceptre, flanked by Michael at left, and Constantius, each holding cross on globe and akakia (DOC 1; BMC 1; S 1857. *Good very fine, rare* £1000-1200

From Numismatic Fine Arts auction XVIII, 1 April 1987, lot 967

## **ROMANUS IV,** Diogenes, 1068-1071

A general from Cappadocia, Romanus seemed to be what the empire needed to halt the advance into Byzantine territory of the Seljuq Turks, but in 1071 his forces lost the battle of Manzikert, not far from Lake Van, and he was taken prisoner and deposed in his absence

### With Eudocia and her sons Michael, Constantius and Andronicus



**168** **Histamenon Nomisma**, 4.43g, Constantinople, 1068-1071

+PWMAN-EVΔOKIA, Christ standing on footstool, nimbate, wearing pallium and colobium, crowning Romanus at left, and Eudocia, each wearing saccos and loros and holding a cross on globe
*rev* KWN-MX-ANΔ; Michael in centre, crowned, wearing saccos and loros, holding labarum and akakia, flanked by Constantius and Andronicus, similarly dressed, holding cross on globe and akakia, all beardless, standing facing on footstools (DOC 1; BMC 1; S 1859). *Extremely fine*
£180-200

### With Eudocia

**169** **Tetarteron Nomisma**, 4.00g, Constantinople, 1068-1071

+ΘKE-ROHΘ, bust of the Virgin facing, wearing pallium and maphorium, flanked by MP-ΘV, holding the infant Christ in front of her
*rev* + IWMAN S - EVΔsKAI. , half-length figures of Romanus on left, his crown with cross and pendilia, wearing loros, and Eudocia, her crown with pinnacles and pendilia, holding between them a globe which supports a long cross (DOC 3; BMC 5; S 1862). *Extremely fine, scarce*
£600-700
From the Goodacre Collection auction, Christie's 22 April 1986, lot 293

170 **One-third Miliaresion**, 0.65g, Constantinople, 1068-1071

M-Θ/ΘK-RΘ at left of facing bust of the Virgin *orans*, nimbate, wearing pallium and maphorium
*rev* PWM to right of bust of Romanus facing, bearded, crowned, wearing loros, holding patriarchal cross and cross on globe, (DOC 7; BMC 9; S 1865A). *Small flan, attractive very fine, very rare* £400-450
From the William Herbert Hunt Collection, Sotheby New York 5-6 December 1990, lot 848

171 **Follis** 13.31g, Anonymous type, Class G, Constantinople

IC-XC, bust of Christ facing, with nimbus cross, wearing pallium and colobium, raising right hand in benediction and holding scroll in left
*rev* MP-ΘV, facing bust of Virgin *orans*, nimbate, wearing pallium and maphorium, (DOC pp.692-4; BMC,Constantine IX 19-25; S 1867). *Very fine* £30-40

## MICHAEL VII, Ducas, 1071-1078

Michael, the eldest son of Constantine X and Eudocia was no leader. The return of Romanus in 1072 after his release by the Turks was less than triumphant, and he died soon afterwards. During Michael's tenancy, Asia Minor was largely lost to the Turks, the Normans completed their conquest of South Italy, and the Balkans were in revolt. The Empire was at its nadir.

172 **Histamenon Nomisma**, 4.33g, Constantinople, 1071-1078

IC-XC, bust of Christ facing, with nimbus cross, wearing pallium and colobium, raising right hand in benediction and holding book of Gospels in left
*rev* + MIX-AHΛ - RACIΛEW, bust of emperor facing, bearded, crowned, wearing loros, holding labarum and cross on globe (DOC 2; BMC 2var; S 1868). *About extremely fine* £100-120

173 **Miliaresion**, 2.19g, Constantinople, 1071-1078

+ΘKE ROHΘEI - TW CW ΔO[VΛW], the Virgin *orans*, standing facing on footstool, nimbate, wearing pallium and maphorium, flanked by MP-ΘV
*rev* +MIXAHΛ- RA[CIΛ O ΔVK], Michael standing facing, bearded, crowned, wearing military tunic and cloak, holding long cross in right hand and resting left hand on sword in sheath (DOC 7a; BMC 18; S 1873). *About extremely fine, rare* £500-600

From the William Herbert Hunt Collection, Sotheby New York 5-6 December 1990, lot 860

174 **Two-thirds Miliaresion**, 1.36g, Constantinople, 1071-1078

IC-XC, Christ enthroned facing, nimbus cross, wearing pallium and colobium, raising right hand in benediction and holding book of Gospels in left
*rev* +KERΘ/ MIXAHΛ/ΔECΠOTH /TW ΔOV/-KA- , ornament above (DOC 11b; BMC 21; S 1875). *Good fine, very rare* £180-200

175 **Two-thirds Miliaresion**, 1.19g, Constantinople, 1071-1078

MP-ΘV, bust of Virgin facing, nimbate, wearing pallium and maphorium, supporting head of Christ, nimbate, in front of her
*rev* -/+ΘKE/ ROHΘEI/ MIXAHΛ/ ΔECΠOTH/ TW ΔUKA, ornament above and below (DOC 8; BMC 23; S 1876). *Good fine, rare* £220-240

176 **One-third Miliaresion**, 0.72g, Constantinople, 1071-1078

IC-XC, facing bust of Christ, nimbate, wearing pallium and colobium, raising right hand in benediction and holding book of Gospels in left
*rev* +KER,Θ/ MIXAHΛ/ ΔECΠOTH/ TW ΔOV/.KA., ornament at top (DOC 13; BMC -; S 1877). *Irregular flan, mint state, extremely rare* £2400-2600

177 **Follis**, 6.78g, Constantinople, 1071-1078

IC-XC, bust of Christ facing, flanked by large stars, cross behind head, wearing pallium and colobium, raising right hand in benediction and holding book of Gospels in left
*rev* +MIXAHΛ - RACIΛ O Δ, bust of emperor facing, bearded, crowned, wearing loros, holding labarum and cross on globe (DOC 14a-c; BMC 24-8; S 1878). *Good fine* £30-40

178 **Half-follis**, 4.13g, Constantinople, 1071-1078

IC-XC, bust of Christ facing, flanked by large stars, cross behind head, wearing pallium and colobium, raising right hand in benediction and holding book of Gospels in left
*rev* M-AHΛ - RACIΛ O Δ, bust of emperor facing, bearded, crowned, wearing loros and holding labarum and cross on globe (DOC 15; BMC -; S 1880A). *Good very fine, extremely rare* £500-600

Of the few known specimens this is probably the finest.

## NICEPHORUS III, Botaniates, 1078-1081

In the Empire's hour of need, Nicephorus was not capable. He relied heavily on his general Alexius Comnenus, and was ultimately obliged to abdicate in his favour

179 **Histamenon Nomisma**, 4.35g, Constantinople, 1078-1081

IC-XC, Christ seated facing on throne with jewelled back, nimbate, wearing pallium and colobium, raising right hand in benediction and holding book of Gospels in left
*rev* +NIKHΦP ΔECΠ-TW ROTANIATH, Nicephorus standing facing on footstool, bearded, crowned, wearing loros and holding long labarum and cross on globe (DOC 2; BMC 5-6; S 1882). *Attractively toned, extremely fine* £700-750

*See colour illustration*

180 **Histamenon Nomisma**, 4.41g, 1078-1081

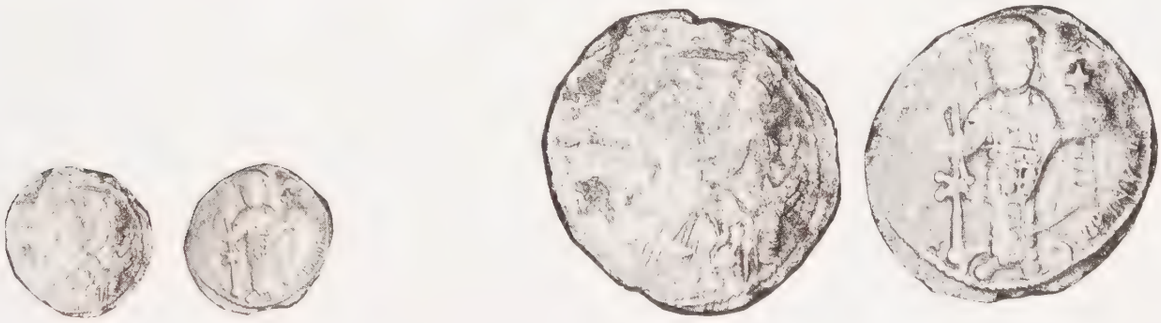
IC-XC, bust of Christ facing, nimbate, wearing pallium and colobium, raising right hand in benediction and holding book of Gospels in left
*rev* + NIKH -ΦP -ΔECΠ, bust of emperor facing, bearded, crowned, wearing loros, holding long cross and cross on globe (DOC 1; BMC 1-4; S 1883). *Good very fine* £120-140

## With his wife Maria, formerly wife of Michael VII

181 **Miliaresion**, 2.00g, Constantinople, 1078-1081

[EN TOV]TW NIKATE-NIKHΦOP CAI MA[PIA], facing busts of Nicephorus at left, crowned, wearing jewelled chlamys, and Maria, crowned, wearing loros, flanking large cross crosslet with X at centre, on globe and three steps, pellet in crescent below
*rev* NIKHΦP/ KAI MAPIA/ ΠICTOI RA/CIΛEIC PW/MAIWN, ornaments above and below (DOC 6; BMC p.537, pl.LXIII 8; S 1886). *Very fine, extremely rare* £400-500

From the William Herbert Hunt Collection, Sotheby New York, 5-6 December 1990, lot 878



182 **Two-thirds Miliaresion**, 0.80g, Constantinople, 1078-1081

MP-ΘV, facing bust of the Virgin *orans*, nimbate, wearing pallium and maphorium
*rev* [NIKHΦP ΔEC] TW ROTANIAT, Nicephorus standing facing, bearded, crowned, wearing loros, holding long labarum with X on shaft and cross on globe (DOC 8; BMC -; S 1887). *Believed to be only the second recorded specimen, good fine, exceptionally rare* £600-700

## NICEPHORUS BASILACIUS, 1078

Originally a general under Michael VII, Basilacius was a pretender, who held Thessalonika with the title of Emperor for some months in the summer of 1078 after the fall of Michael. At this same time, Nicephorus Bryennius made a bid for Constantinople. Both were overcome by Alexius Comnenus, a trusted general who had been sent by the Emperor Nicephorus III to deal with the rebels

183 **Follis**, 9.72g, Thessalonica, 1078

[+NIKHΦW-POC BAC], half-length figure of Christ facing, nimbate, flanked by IC-XC
*rev* IC-XC NI-KA in the four angles of a plain patriarchal cross on base (see Bland, NC 1992 pp.175-6 "A Follis of Nicephorus Basilacius"; DOC pp.705-6, Anonymous Class N; S 1903A, Anonymous). *All known specimens are in poor condition, fine, extremely rare* £400-500

## ALEXIUS I, Comnenus, 1081-1118

The first of a new dynasty of gifted rulers who restored some of the pride to the empire and slowed the rate of decline

184 **Histamenon Nomisma**, 4.23g, Constantinople, 1081

IC-XC, Christ seated facing on square-backed throne, nimbate, wearing pallium and colobium, raising right hand in benediction and holding book of Gospels in left
*rev* +AΛEΞIW ΔEC-ΠOT TW KOMNHNW, Alexius standing facing on footstool, crowned, wearing loros, holding long labarum with plain shaft, and cross on globe (DOC IV 1a,3, this coin; H pl.51,1,with X on shaft; BMC -; S 1892,with X on shaft). *The only recorded specimen without X on shaft, has been mounted, very fine, exceptionally rare* £1600-1800

185 **Histamenon Nomisma**, 4.30g, Constantinople, 1081-1092

IC-XC, Christ seated facing on lyre-backed throne, nimbate, wearing pallium and colobium, raising right hand in benediction and holding book of Gospels in left
*rev* +AΛEXIW ΔEC -ΠOT TW KM, bust of emperor facing, crowned, wearing jewelled chlamys, holding sceptre with pelleted star at top, and cross on globe (DOC -; BMC -; S 1893A). *Very fine, extremely rare* £850-950

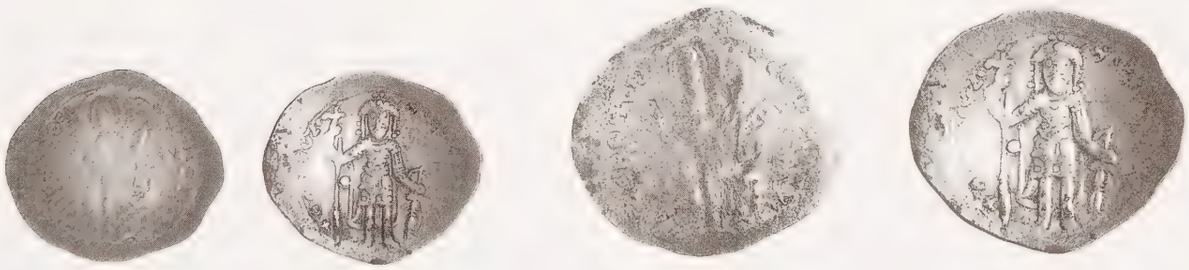
From the William Herbert Hunt Collection, Sotheby New York 5-6 December 1990, lot 885

One of only three recorded specimens with Christ seated on lyre-backed throne instead of the usual square-backed variety.

186 **Tetarteron Nomisma**, electrum 3.95g, Constantinople, 1081-1092

IC-XC, bust of Christ facing, nimbate, wearing pallium and colobium and holding book of Gospels
*rev* +AΛEΞIW ΔEC-ΠOT TW KA, bust of emperor facing crowned, wearing jewelled chlamys, holding cruciform sceptre and cross on globe (H pl.2,1; BMC -; S 1895). *Very fine, rare* £250-300

From the Giessener Münzhandlung auction 44, 3 April 1989, lot 1065



187 **Miliaresion**, 2.11g, (scyphate), Constantinople, 1081-1092

+ΘKE ROHΘEI - TW CW ΔOVΛW, the Virgin *orans*, standing facing, nimbate, wearing pallium and maphorium, flanked by MP -ΘV
*rev* +AΛEΞIW ΔEC-ΠOT TW [KOMN], Alexius standing facing, crowned, wearing cuirass, tunic, cloak and boots, large pellet below right elbow, holding long cross in right hand and resting left on sword in sheath (H pl.2,13; BMC -; S 1897; for provenance, see Coin Hoards II, 337). *Rarely found in better state, very fine, extremely rare* £600-700

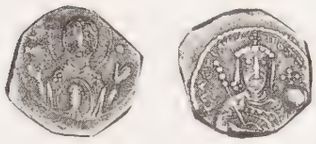
From the William Herbert Hunt Collection, Sotheby New York 5-6 December 1990, lot 899

188 **Histamenon Nomisma**, 4.48g, (electrum or silver), Thessalonika, c.1081-1082

+KERΘ - AΛEΞ, bust of Christ facing, nimbate, wearing pallium and colobium, and holding a book of Gospels, flanked by IC - XC
*rev* [Δ I/MI/T/I] -Δ/EC/ΠO/TH/T in columns left and right, St. Demetrius nimbate, in military tunic and cloak, and holding sword, presenting labarum to Alexius who stands facing, crowned, wearing loros (H pl.1,9; BMC,Alexius III 14; S 1904). *Good very fine, extremely rare* £1400-1600

An extremely rare first issue

*See colour illustration*



189 **Tetarteron Nomisma**, 3.88g, (electrum or silver), Thessalonika, 1081-1092

MP-ΘV, facing bust of the Virgin *orans*, nimbate, wearing pallium and maphorium, the nimbate head of Christ in front of her
*rev* +AΛEΞIW Δ-ΠOT TW K, bust of emperor facing, crowned, wearing jewelled chlamys, holding jewelled sceptre and cross on globe, (H pl.2,6-9; BMC 30; S 1906). *Good very fine, scarce* £140-160

From the William Herbert Hunt Collection, Sotheby New York, 5-6 December 1990, lot 896

190 **Follis**, 4.74g, Thessalonika, 1081-1092

IC-XC, NI-KA in angles of cross standing on two steps
*rev* CEP CVN/EPΓEI BA/CIΛEI AΛ/EΞIW in four lines, cross above (H pl.3,3; BMC 66-8; S 1911). *Good fine* £30-40

**191** **Hyperpyron** (c.20 carats fine), 4.45g, Constantinople, Post-Reform, 1092-1118

+ KE RO-HΘEI, Christ enthroned facing, nimbus flanked by IC-XC, wearing pallium and colobium, raising right hand in benediction and holding book of Gospels in left
*rev* A/ΛE/ΞIW/ ΔEC/ΠO/TH - TW/ KO/MNH/NW in columns left and right, Alexius standing facing, crowned, wearing divitision and chlamys with enlarged jewels, holding labarum and cross on globe, *manus Dei* above (H pl.4,3-5; BMC 7; S 1913). *Without crinkling, about extremely fine* £250-300

**192** **Aspron Trachy**, 3.97g, electrum, Constantinople, Post-Reform 1092-1118

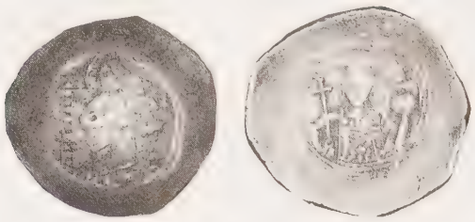
MP-ΘV, the Virgin enthroned facing, nimbate, wearing pallium and maphorium, holding nimbate head of infant Christ in front of her
*rev* A/ΛE/ΞIW/ΔEC/ΠO/T - TW/ KO/MN/N in columns left and right, Alexius standing facing, crowned, wearing divitision and sagion, holding jewelled sceptre and cross on globe (H pl.6,2-5; BMC 13; S 1915). *Without ususal striking cracks, good very fine, rare* £500-600

From the William Herbert Hunt Collection, Sotheby New York, 5-6 December 1990, lot 906

**193** **Aspron Trachy**, billon 4.24g, Post-Reform, 1093/4

IC-XC, Christ enthroned facing, nimbate, wearing pallium and colobium, and holding book of Gospels
*rev* +AΛEΞIW -ΔEC, bust of emperor facing, crowned, wearing jewelled chlamys, holding cruciform sceptre and cross on globe (H pl.7,2-4; BMC 8var; S 1918). *Very fine* £40-60

From the Nadia Kapamadji collection auction, Paris, 27-29 October 1992, lot 558 part



194 **Aspron Trachy**, billon 4.20g, ?Constantinople, Post Reform, 1093/4

IC-XC, Christ enthroned facing, nimbate, wearing pallium and colobium and holding book of Gospels
*rev* +AΛEΞIW-ΔEC, bust of emperor facing, crowned, wearing jewelled chlamys, holding cruciform sceptre and cross on globe (H pl.7,2; BMC 14var; S 1918). *Very fine* £40-60

From the Nadia Kapamadji collection auction, Paris 27-29 October 1992, lot 558 part

The very small reverse die is normally associated with Thessalonika

195 **Half Tetarteron**, 2.16g, Uncertain mint, possibly Cyprus, 1092-1118

(MP)-ΘV, bust of the Virgin, nimbate, wearing pallium and maphorium
*rev* legend not visible, bust of emperor wearing stemma, divitision and chlamys, holding labarum in right hand and cross on globe in left (similar specimens sometimes shew ΛΛE at top right; see Donald, Metcalf, Pitsillides, Cyprus N.S. Report XV-XXI, 1984/90 "A scarce type of copper Tetarteron of the early 12th century from Cyprus"; H pl.8,17; BMC -; S 1934). *Very fine, very rare* £120-140

These pieces have an undoubted Cypriot connection. Specimens have been found in the Nicosia area from time to time, but very rarely elsewhere

## JOHN II, Comnenus, 1118-1143

The eldest son of Alexius I succeeded his father after some opposition to his candidacy from his sister Anna Comnena. An able ruler, he further raised the imperial morale by successes in the Balkans, against the Serbs, by the re-conquest of Antioch and an alliance against the growing power of the Normans. He died after a fall when hunting

196 **Hyperpyron**, 4.33g, Constantinople, 1118-1143

IC-XC, Christ seated on throne without back, nimbate, wearing pallium and colobium, raising right hand in benediction and holding book of Gospels in left
*rev* +IW ΔECΠOTH facing half-length figures of the Virgin, nimbate, ΘV above, MP at right, wearing pallium and maphorium, and John, crowned, wearing loros, holding akakia, and with *manus Dei* above head, holding patriarchal cross between them (H pl.9,1-3; BMC 10; S 1938). *Very fine* £180-200

From the Nadia Kapamadji collection auction, Paris 27-29 October 1992, lot 560

**197** **Hyperpyron,** 4.35g, Thessalonika, First Coinage

IC-XC, Christ seated facing on throne without back, nimbate, wearing pallium and colobium, raising right hand in benediction and holding book of Gospels in left
*rev* IW ΔECΠOTH, facing half-length figures of the Virgin, nimbate, ΘV above, MP at right, wearing pallium and maphorium, and John, crowned, wearing loros, holding akakia, *manus Dei* above his head, holding between them a patriarchal cross (H pl.9-10; BMC 15-16; S 1947). *Insignificant graffiti, about good very fine, rare* £300-400

From the Nadia Kapamadji collection auction, Paris 27-29 October 1992, lot 562

**198** **Hyperpyron**, 4.40g, Thessalonika, Second Coinage

IC-XC, Christ seated on throne with pellets above, nimbate, wearing pallium and colobium, raising right hand in benediction and holding book of Gospels in left
*rev* [IW/ ΔEC/ΠOT/ TW/Π] – T.W/ ΠOP/ΦU/ ΓE/NII/NH/T in columns left and right, the Virgin, nimbate, wearing pallium and maphorium standing facing, crowning the emperor John, wearing divitision and loros, holding labarum and akakia, M-Θ between their heads (H pl.9,11var; BMC 30var; S 1948var). *Extremely fine* £240-260

## **MANUEL I,** Comnenus, 1143-1180

The son of John II enjoyed a long reign which was to see Western princes of the second Crusade dreaming about the capture of Constantinople as much as about defeating the Saracens, and the Norman, Roger II, plundering Corinth and Thebes. The defeat by the Turks at Myriocephalon in 1176 finally broke Manuel's spirit, and he died four years later

199 **Pattern Hyperpyron**, Ae. 11.61g, Constantinople, 1143

O /EM/MA - NU/HΛ to left and right, young bust of Christ facing, beardless, nimbus cross flanked by IC-XC, wearing pallium and colobium, raising right hand in benediction and holding scroll in left
*rev* MANUHΛ-ΔECΠOTHC, Manuel standing facing on footstool, crowned, wearing divitision, loros and sagion, holding labarum and akakia (H - ;BMC -; S -). *Unpublished, extremely fine, probably unique* £1200-1500

Hendy ("Coinage and Money in the Byzantine Empire 1081-1261") comments that the widespread employent of the Christ Emmanuel type by Manuel, more particularly on his earlier coinage, is a play on the words MANUHΛ - EMMANUHΛ, especially appropriate in view of his youth at the time of his accession

200 **Aspron Trachy**, electrum 4.21g, Constantinople, Second Coinage

IC-XC, Christ seated on throne without back, nimbate, wearing pallium and colobium, raising right hand in benediction, and holding book of Gospels in left
*rev* MANUHΛ-ΔECΠOT, the Virgin, MP-ΘV above her head, wearing pallium and maphorium, and Manuel, bearded, wearing divitision and loros and holding akakia, both standing facing, holding long patriarchal cross between them (H pl.13,3var; BMC 26; S 1958). *Good very fine* £280-300

From the William Herbert Hunt Collection, Sotheby New York 5-6 December 1990, lot 917

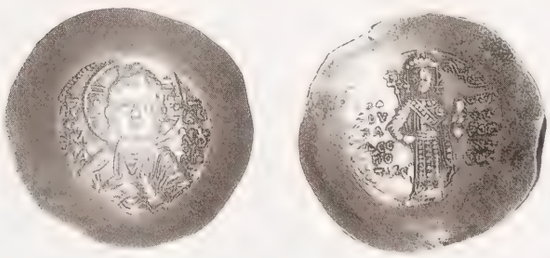
201 **Aspron Trachy**, electrum 4.18g, Constantinople, Third Coinage

IC-XC, Christ standing facing on dais, bearded, nimbate, wearing pallium and colobium, holding book of Gospels in left hand, large star to left and right
*rev* MANOVH at left, Θ /Θ(EO/Δ/W/PO/C) at right, St. Theodore on right, bearded, nimbate, wearing military tunic and resting left hand on sword in sheath, and Manuel, bearded, crowned, wearing divitision and loros, right hand on sword in sheath, standing facing, holding long patriarchal cross on globe between them (H pl.13,9; BMC 28; S 1959). *Good very fine* £180-200

From the Nadia Kapamadji collection auction, Paris 27-29 October 1992, lot 572 part

202 **Aspron Trachy**, electrum 3.73g, Constantinople, Third Coinage

IC-XC, Christ standing facing on dais, bearded, nimbate, wearing pallium and colobium, holding book of Gospels (without flanking stars)
*rev* MANOVH at left, Θ/Θ/EO/ΔW/PO/C at right, St. Theodore at right, bearded, nimbate, wearing military tunic, resting left hand on sheathed sword, and Manuel, bearded, crowned, wearing divitision and loros, resting right hand on sheathed sword, both standing facing, holding long patriarchal cross on globe between them (H pl.13,5; BMC -; S 1959var). *Good very fine, scarce* £200-240



203 **Aspron Trachy**, electrum 4.18g, Constantinople, Fourth Coinage

O/ EM/MA - NU/HΛ in columns left and right, bust of Christ, flanked by IC-XC, beardless, nimbate, wearing pallium and colobium, raising right hand in benediction and holding scroll in left
*rev* MA/NOV/HΛ/ΔEC/ΠO/TEC - O Π/ΦV/POΓ/NNH/TOC in columns left and right, Manuel standing facing, crowned, wearing divitision and sagion, holding labarum and akakia, *manus Dei* above right (H pl.13,10; BMC 15; S 1960). *Full inscription visible, about extremely fine* £250-300

From the Nadia Kapamadji collection auction, Paris 27-29 October 1992, lot 572 part

204 **Aspron Trachy**, electrum 4.50g, Thessalonika, Third Coinage

MP-ΘV, Virgin enthroned facing, nimbate, wearing pallium and maphorium, holding nimbate head of infant Christ in front of her
*rev* MANUHΛ ΔECΠO at left, O/ Δ/H/M/H/TPI/OC at right, St. Demetrius at right, beardless, nimbate, in military tunic, and Manuel, bearded, crowned, wearing divitision and chlamys and holding akakia, both standing facing, holding long labarum between them (H pl.14,8; BMC 31; S 1974). *Exceptionally beautiful, extremely fine* £400-500

205 **Tetarteron**, 3.87g, Constantinople, First Coinage

IC-XC, bust of Christ facing, beardless, nimbate, wearing pallium and colobium, raising right hand in benediction and holding scroll in left
*rev* MA-NV-HΛ/ΔΠ , bust of emperor facing, beardless, crowned, wearing loros, holding labarum and cross on globe (H pl.17,5-6; BMC 70; S 1967). *Good fine* £30-40

## ANDRONICUS I, Comnenus, 1183-1185

The cousin of Manuel was in his sixties when he became emperor. Ruthless attempts to eradicate corruption were not well received and he soon made many enemies. After Thessalonika was lost to the Normans, in August 1185, and Constantinople threatened, there was no hope for Andronicus

206 **Hyperpyron**, 4.49g, Constantinople, 1183-1185

MP-ΘV, Virgin enthroned facing, nimbate, wearing pallium and maphorium, holding nimbate head of infant Christ in front of her
*rev* ANΔPONIKOC-ΔECΠOTHC, Christ, bearded, nimbate, wearing pallium and colobium and holding book of Gospels, standing facing, and crowning Andronicus, with forked beard, wearing divitision, loros and sagion and holding labarum and cross on globe, IC-XC above and right (H p.l, 18.9; BMC 1; S 1983). *Extremely fine, rare* £1400-1600

From the Numismatic Fine Arts auction XVIII, 1 April 1987, lot 659

207 **Aspron Trachy**, electrum 4.15g, Constantinople, 1183-1185

+ΘKE ROHΘEI, Virgin *orans* standing facing on dais, nimbate, wearing pallium and maphorium, nimbate head of infant Christ on her breast, MP-ΘV left and right above
*rev* ANΔPONIKOC-ΔECΠOTH, Christ, bearded, nimbate, wearing pallium and colobium and holding book of Gospels, standing facing and crowning Andronicus, with forked beard, wearing chlamys and holding long labarum and akakia (H pl.18,12; BMC 3; S 1984). *Small flan crack, good very fine, rare* £400-500

## **THEODORE** Mankaphas, Pretender in Philadelphia, 1188-9 and 1204-5

Theodore established himself briefly as emperor in his home town in Lydia, in opposition to the rule of Isaac II. He apparently continued to govern there after relinquishing his title in 1189, and re-emerged some fifteen years later.

208 **Aspron Trachy**, billon or copper 5.64g, Philadelphia, 1188-1189

IC-XC, Christ standing facing on dais
*rev* Θ/Δ/C -B, Theodore standing facing, holding patriarchal cross-sceptre in right hand and resting left on sword in sheath (Gr.1127; H -; S -). *Good fine, very rare* £140-160

## **ISAAC** Comnenus, Usurper in Cyprus, 1184-1191

Isaac, great-nephew of Manuel I, established himself in Nicosia for nine years, but with this episode, Cyprus was finally lost to the Byzantine empire. Richard the Lionheart imprisoned him and took over the island at the time of the Third Crusade

209 **Tetarteron**, 2.69g, Nicosia, Third Issue

IC-XC, Christ standing facing, raising right hand in benediction, two crosses in field left and right
*rev* ICAAKIOC [ΔECΠOT] Isaac standing facing, holding cross-sceptre and akakia, being crowned by Virgin (Gr. 1123; DOC IV,8; S -). *Good fine, very rare* £140-160

210 **AE Tetarteron**, 3.08g, uncertain Cypriot Mint

EMMANVHΛ, Christ enthroned, nimbate, wearing pallium and colobium, flanked by IC-XC
*rev* ICAAKIOC [ΔECΠOTIC], Virgin, nimbate, wearing pallium and maphorium, standing facing crowning Isaac, wearing divitision and loros, and holding cross-sceptre and akakia, M-P between their heads (H p.21,13var; Gr 1125var; DOC IV,10; S 1998). *Good fine, very rare*
£140-160

## **ALEXIUS III,** Angelus-Comnenus, 1195-1203

Once again, in a time of need, the Empire lacked a strong leader. Bulgaria and Serbia gained strength and influence, but it was above all the force of the Fourth Crusade, re-directed from Egypt to the siege of Constantinople, which brought about the surrender of the city and the flight of Alexius.

211 **Tetarteron**, 3.37 g, Thessalonika, 1195-1203

⊙ ΓE/PW - ΓI/OC either side of facing bust of St. George, beardless, nimbate, wearing cuirass and sagion, holding spear and resting hand on hilt of sword
*rev* AΛEΞIOC-ΔEΠOTH, Alexius standing facing, crowned, wearing divitision and chlamys, holding labarum with pellet on shaft and cross on globe (H pl.23,9var; BMC 39var; S 2015var). *Unpublished variant with pellet on emperor's labarum, very fine* £50-60

## **ISAAC II,** Angelus (restored) 18 July - November 1203

Deposed eight years earlier and blinded, Isaac was the appointee of the victorious army of the Crusaders in which his son Alexius IV served, but both were soon removed

212 **Tetarteron**, 4.27., Constantinople, 18.7.1203 to November 1203

MP-ΘV, Virgin *orans* standing facing, wearing pallium and maphorium, nimbate head of Christ on her breast
*rev* ICAAKIOC-[ΔECΠOT], Isaac standing facing, crowned, wearing divitision and chlamys, holding sceptre and cross on globe (H pl.27,12,Latin Empire; BMC -; S 2019). *Good fine, very rare*
£140-160

## **JOHN III,** Ducas-Vatatzes, Emperor in Nicaea, 1222-1254

With the fall of Constantinople to the Latins in 1204, the provinces which remained in Byzantine hands (until the re-conquest of the capital by Michael VIII Palaeologus in 1261) were, simply, Epirus, Nicaea, and Trebizond, and then, in 1224, Thessalonika, re-captured by Theodore of Epirus; in these territories, the Empire-in-Exile survived. John III had extended his power over Thessalonika by 1246

**213** **Hyperpyron**, 4.34g, Magnesia, Second Coinage

IC-XC, Christ enthroned, nimbate, wearing pallium and colobium, raising right hand in benediction and holding book of Gospels in left
*rev* [IW/ ΔEC/ΠO] - TW/ΠOP/ΦV/P, in columns left and right, Virgin standing facing, wearing pallium and maphorium, crowning John, wearing divitision and loros and holding long labarum and akakia, MP-ΘV above and right (H pl.32,3; DOC IV, pl.XXIX,4/5, pl.XXX 5/13, S 2073var). *Very fine* £140-160

**214** **Hyperpyron**, 4.30 g, Magnesia, Second Coinage

IC-XC, Christ enthroned, nimbate, wearing pallium and colobium, raising right hand in benediction and holding book of Gospels in left, three pellets in field right
*rev* [IW/ ΔEC/ΠO - TW/ΠOP/ΦV/P], in columns left and right, Virgin standing facing, wearing pallium and maphorium, crowning John, wearing divitision and loros and holding long labarum and akakia, MP-ΘV above and right (H pl.32,3var; DOC IV, pl.XXIX,4-5 and pl.XXX 5-13, S 2073var). *Variety with symbol in obverse field, very fine* £140-160

From the Nadia Kapamadji collection auction, Paris 27-29 October 1992, lot 584 part

**215** **Tetarteron**, 2.72g, Magnesia, Type B

IC-XC, patriarchal cross on steps
*rev* IW/A -ΛCC/Π in columns left and right, standing figure of John, three-quarter length, wearing stemma, divitision and jewelled loros and sagion, holding labarum-headed sceptre and cross on globe (H pl.38,8(uncertain attribution); DOC IV pl.XXXIV,62; S 2120). *Very fine, rare* £60-80

## **JOHN,** Comnenus-Ducas, Emperor 1237-1242 and Despot 1242-1244 in Thessalonica

John played but a small part in the decline of the Thessalonikan Empire, which by now acknowledged the overlordship of Nicaea

216 **Trachy (small module)**, billon 0.88g, Thessalonika

Uncertain ( pelleted cross within circle ?)
*rev* IW B, half-length figure of John holding sceptre and akakia, beneath canopy (H -; DO IV pl.XLIII,36; S 2221). *Very fine, extremely rare* £80-100

## **ANDRONICUS II,** Palaeologus, Sole Reign, 1282-1295

The son of the founder of the last great Byzantine dynasty, Andronicus did not possess the same strengths as Michael VIII, and as hordes of Turks over-ran Asia Minor, and civil war tore the state, he abdicated and retired to a monastery.

217 **Hyperpyron**, 4.18g, Constantinople

Bust of Virgin *orans* within the city walls of Constantinople, with six groups of towers, sigla two groups of four pellets, and B-[X] above
*rev* ANΔPO/NIKOC/ ΔECΠO/TIC O Π/Λ, Christ standing over and blessing kneeling figure of emperor Andronicus, IC-XC in field right (Gr 1291; LPC p.34,1var; S 2326). *Very fine* £250-300

From the William Herbert Hunt Collection, Sotheby New York 5-6 December 1990, lot 949

## **JOHN V,** Palaeologus and **ANNA** of Savoy, 1341-1347

John's mother and Regent, Anna, was represented on some of his coins

218 **Basilikon,** 1.09g, Constantinople, 1341-1347

Christ seated on high-backed throne, nimbate, wearing pallium and colobium and holding book of Gospels
*rev* I/W, to right ANNA, to left EN[XWC] John, holding sceptre and akakia, and Anna holding sceptre, standing facing (LPC p.132,1; BMC -; S 2502). *Rarely found in better condition, very fine, very rare* £750-850

219 **Basilikon**, 1.01g, Constantinople

Christ seated on high-backed throne, nimbate, wearing pallium and colobium and holding book of Gospels
*rev* between heads I/W, to left [ANNA], to right E/N/X, standing figures of Anna (left), and John holding sceptre and akakia, (LPC 132-2; Gr 1324; S2503). *Weakly struck, about very fine, extremely rare* £180-200

## MANUEL II, Palaeologus, 1391-1423

Under renewed pressure from the Turks in the East, Manuel travelled West between 1399-1402, seeking aid from Venice, France, even England, where he was received by Henry IV, but without success. At the end of his reign, the Ottoman forces were almost at the gates of Constantinople

220 **Quarter Hyperpyron or Half-Stavraton**, 3.74g, Constantinople, circa 1399-1423

IC-XC, bust of Christ facing, raising right hand in blessing and holding a book of Gospels in left, all within circle of stars and pellets
*rev* + MANOVHΛ BACIΛEVC O ΠAΛEOΛOΓOC, bust of Manuel facing, nimbate, crowned, wearing scalloped tippet, + - + to left and right (LPC 160.2; Gr 1517var; S 2551). *Good very fine* £80-100

## JOHN VIII, Palaeologus, 1423-1448

John took over an empire which was little more than the city of Constantinople itself. When he died childless, his younger brother succeeded him

221. **Half Hyperpyron or Stavraton**, 7.13g, Constantinople, probably late in reign

IC-XC/Λ, bust of Christ facing, holding book of Gospels
*rev* + IWANHC ΔECΠ.....(continuous inscription in two circles), bust of John facing, nimbate, crowned, wearing scalloped tippet (LPC 172.1; Gr 1514; S 2563). *Partly weak but with emperor's name clearly visible, as struck* £80-100

## CONSTANTINE XI, Palaeologus, 1448-1453

Constantine, Despot of the Morea, was crowned at Mistra before setting out for Constantinople. There, an attack from the Ottoman Turks was inevitable, and on 7th April, Muhammad II began the final campaign. After a resistance of seven weeks, the walls being breached, the last Byzantine emperor Constantine, the eleventh successor to the name of the founder of the city, died fighting on 29th May, and the Turks ruled in the city of Constantine the Great. The Byzantine Empire virtually ceased to exist

222 **Half Hyperpyron or Stavraton**, 6.57 g, Constantinople

IC-XC, bust of Christ facing, nimbate, holding book of Gospels, all within circular border of pellets
*rev* (KWNCT.....), in two concentric bands of inscription, bust of Constantine, nimbate, crowned, wearing scalloped tippet (LPC -; BMC -; RN vol.XXXIII, 1991, "The Coinage of Constantine XI", 95). *Partly weak but as struck, extremely rare* £850-950

The existence of Constantine XI's coinage was known from literary sources, but the first coin was not recognised until 1974. This stavraton is from the hoard published by S. Bendall (in Revue Numismatique vol. XXXIII), believed to have contained 158 silver Palaeologan coins of which there were 90 of Constantine XI, including 35 Stavrata. Although the name is not clear on this example, it is a die duplicate of other published specimens where the name is legible

223 **Quarter Hyperpyron or Half-Stavraton**, 3.32g, Constantinople

IC-X, bust of Christ facing, nimbate, holding book of Gospels, all within circular border of pellets; sigla, monogram at left and pellet at right
*rev* + KWNC[TANTIN ΔECΠO]THC O ΠAΛ, bust of Constantine, nimbate, crowned, wearing scalloped tippet, pellets left and right (LPC p.176,1; BMC -; S 2569; RN vol.XXXIII, 1991, 101b). *The finest of known specimens with emperor's name bold and clear, about as struck* £5000-6000

Bendall listed only five coins of this denomination

224 **One-sixteenth Hyperpyron or Eighth-Stavraton**, 0.60g, Constantinople

IC/.-XC/., bust of Christ facing, nimbate, holding book of Gospels
*rev* K - .T , bust of emperor facing, crowned, wearing scalloped tippet (LPC-; BMC -; RN vol.XXXIII, 1991, 118). *Very fine, very rare* £1500-1800

This denomination was unrecorded for Constantine XI before the fifty specimens in the RN hoard were published

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**A.H. Baldwin & Sons Ltd**
11 Adelphi Terrace
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